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# The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Sports pages

## Scholes crowns England's day

G2 with European weather



G2 cover story

## The end of the ruling class

Plus Linda Grant



Education

## Give us back our exam papers!

G2 pages 12-13

French threaten mass expulsions as clashes among fans mar 2-0 England victory over Tunisia

# Violence to worsen - police

Jon Henley, Stuart Millar and John Duncan

**T**HE officer commanding British police operations at the World Cup last night warned that the worst trouble was yet to come as hundreds of hooligans continued on a spree of violence and destruction unprecedented in the history of the tournament's final stages.

Amid warnings from the French government that it is prepared to use mass expulsions to deal with English hooligans, Tim Hollis, the South Yorkshire assistant chief constable in charge of British police liaison with the French security effort, said England's campaign was likely to be marred by more serious violence.

Only a small number of the fans arrested so far have been known to police, and more violent hooligans are either already in France or on the way, Mr Hollis said. "There were a lot of significant new-comers involved so far. We are under no illusions. Our message to the French is that there are more coming."

Two England fans were last night jailed for three months by a Marseille court after being found guilty of criminal damage during Sunday night's disturbances.

After fresh outbreaks of trouble in Marseille had overshadowed England's 2-0 victory over Tunisia yesterday, the French interior minister took the controversial step of raising the prospect of mass expulsions for fans involved in rioting.

Jean-Pierre Chevènement announced that he was prepared to declare an "absolute



emergency" if he considered the disturbances had become a "grave threat to public order". This would allow local authorities to expel hooligans without trial.

The move was backed by Jean-Paul Proust, the Marseille region's police chief, who said: "We don't want them here, we don't want them in our city, we don't want them in France, we're going to send them away and hope they don't come back."

But Mr Hollis urged the French to make an example of English troublemakers, as fans expelled without trial could not be prevented under English law from returning immediately to France.

"They do not like being locked up abroad, and it sends a very powerful message to the others at home," he said. "I have underlined that if there is an opportunity for a custodial sentence, please, please give it."

The worst of yesterday's violence erupted on Marseille's Prado beach, where hundreds of ticketless fans had been watching the game

on a giant screen. As the first England goal went in, Tunisians gathered in a stand above the beach began ripping out seats and throwing them at the England fans below.

A group of about 300 English youths responded by jumping barricades erected to keep the two sides apart, throwing bottles, stones and beach chairs, and the two sides charged each other until CRS riot police moved in, using tear gas to quell the violence. Police said 16 England fans were arrested, and a total of 40 will appear in court today. Fifteen Tunisians were injured in the disturbances, including a child who was hit by a bottle.

There were sporadic skirmishes after the game, but by nightfall an uneasy calm had returned to the streets of Marseille — helped by a police ban on alcohol sales in bars and restaurants.

The scale of the embarrassment caused to England's reputation is so great that the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, told MPs yesterday that the Government was prepared to consider paying compensation to the French.

Tony Blair called the hooligans a "total disgrace". The Prime Minister said: "It may be a small number of fans, there may be other fans that have been involved, but it is no excuse, there aren't any excuses for it. The French police have our total support in dealing with them."

The violence came after 20,000 England fans had made it inside the Stade Velodrome to see the opening match against Tunisia, suggesting that more than 12,000 English supporters had obtained tickets on the black market. The Football Association confirmed that it had distributed



Paul Scholes, right, celebrates with Sol Campbell after scoring, as Graeme Le Saux rushes in

PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK HERTZOG

only 7,000 tickets, with a further 2,000 coming to Marseille on World Cup packages. The massive support for England offers a huge potential headache for World Cup

organisers. England's next two matches, at Toulouse and Lens, will be played in much smaller stadiums than the 60,000-capacity Marseille stadium.

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'We don't want them here, we don't want them in our city, we don't want them in France. We're going to send them away and hope they don't come back'

Marseille region's police chief

'We are under no illusions. Our message to the French is that there are more coming'

British police liaison chief

## Iraq sanctions could be 'lifted in months'

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

**I**RAQ'S hopes for the lifting of sanctions received a rare boost yesterday when the United Nations said its files on President Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological arsenal could be closed within months if he resolved outstanding disarmament issues.

In his most upbeat assessment, Richard Butler, the head of the UN special weapons commission, said a new work schedule agreed with the Iraqi authorities could bring verification by August that the country had scrapped its banned weapons of mass destruction.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is today more visible than it has been for a very long time," the Australian diplomat told reporters at the end of talks in Baghdad with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz. But the United States and Britain, the chief

hawks on the issue, both insisted that big gaps remained in Iraq's disclosures. Under the ceasefire resolutions that ended the Gulf war following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, Unascom has to certify that the disarmament programme has been completed before the UN's key oil embargo can be lifted.

Iraq blames the sanctions for the deaths of more than one million people, the malnutrition of a generation, and the impoverishment of a once-wealthy country. Washington and London, isolated on the UN Security Council, accuse President Saddam of obstructing Unascom's work to conceal his weapons, and of cynically exploiting his people's suffering to generate pressure for the lifting of sanctions.

Mr Butler, who is to report back to the council next week, said he hoped that when he returned to Baghdad in August most outstanding issues would have been wrapped up, and he could

report in October that Iraq had met its obligations. "We have to see the case will depend on the quality of the work that is done in the next two months," he said.

His statement clearly sought to shift the focus on the Iraqis, but diplomats said they would remain sceptical about Baghdad's intentions until they saw concrete evidence of a different mood.

"The devil is going to be in the detail of this," one US official warned. "We will have to look very closely at what they've agreed to. The danger is the Iraqis will co-operate now and then say in October they expect sanctions to go. We certainly hope Butler's visit has not left that impression."

"We've been here before so we are sceptical," a Foreign Office diplomat said. Twice in the past year Iraq has pulled back from the brink of military confrontation with US-led forces, conscious each time that it is getting to page 2, column 3

## Scouts dent Cocker's cred

Amelia Gentleman

**J**ARVIS COCKER, one of Britpop's leading lights, has suffered a blow to his credibility from an unexpected source — the boy scouts.

Pulp's lead singer recently shrugged off his anti-establishment persona and, at his mother's insistence, donated a platinum disc as the star prize in a raffle to raise money for the renovation of the local scout hut but he attended as a child.

But it emerged yesterday that after nearly a month on sale, only three of the 10,000 tickets to win the coveted disc had been sold — all bought by the same person, raising a grand total of £3 for the fund.

Cocker's musical repertoire — which includes songs such as *Sorted for Ee and Whizz* and *Cocaine Socialism* — is not one that most scoutmasters would choose to sing around the campfire.

But the raffle's organisers are dismayed that there



Jarvis Cocker's platinum disc was expected to raise up to £15,000 for the scouts, who are baffled by the raffle flop. It has raised just £3

has not been more enthusiasm.

Ticket sales have been so poor that scout leaders estimate only a small fraction of the disc's £1,000 price tag will be raised.

Treva Perceval, chief of the city's intake scout group, said: "It has been desperate. We had hoped to raise between £10,000 and £15,000 through the raffle."

A spokesman for Cocker, who is on tour in the United States, said he found it

hard to understand the poor response.

Cocker has his mother, Christine Connolly, to thank for this mortification — and this is not the first time she has caused him embarrassment.

A committed Conservative who unsuccessfully ran for a council seat earlier this year, she used to send her son to school in Lederhosen, and last week admitted in a frank interview that he was a "bit of a mistake".

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## Sketch

## MPs bring back the besmirch



Simon Hoggart

POPPED into the Commons at 2.30pm, just as the second half of England's match was beginning. There were 67 MPs there, which for a Monday afternoon is plenty. Even more startling, they started to drift away at 3.30pm, a few minutes after the game had ended. Perhaps they thought it was finally safe to go outside without people drowning on about England's lack of forward penetration.

It all goes to prove that the overwhelming majority of people are FIs — Fairly Interested. We don't throw chairs through cafe windows, but equally, we don't pretend that nothing is happening. We vaguely hope that England do well, but if they don't, we'd regard a half of bitter and a bag of crisps as a perfectly adequate consolation.

MPs had their routine gripe about the hooligans. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said they had "besmirched" the name of English football. ("Besmirched" is one of those periphrastic words which is only ever used of football hooligans, just as you only ever have a "farrago of untruths". Nobody ever talks about a "farrago of spicy snackfoods" or a "farrago of beautiful women".)

I do find it faintly creepy when MPs all agree about something. You longed for some ancient Tory to stand up and praise "the fighting spirit of Britain's hooligans, showing some of the bravery and sheer guts which gave Johnny Frenchman a bloody nose at Agincourt and Waterloo... Of course, no one did.

Even Dennis Skinner joined in, attributing the trouble to fighting between the English National Front and the French National Front. Since our TV screens also include words of North African youths chucking stones and petrol bombs at the police, one won-

dered quite where they fitted in Mr Skinner's highly politicised world view. But then I think if you probed long enough, you'd find that he blamed the wet weather we've been having on global capitalism.

I then popped into the House of Lords to watch Lord Longford ask about prisoners. He is 92 now, and there may not be many more chances to catch him in action. Sadly, he was not present to ask his question. The 7th Earl is one of the last dotty hereditary peers, a people who face extinction as surely as any Amazonian jungle tribe.

I once stood next to him in a gents' toilet in Warrington, where I was covering a by-election. Started, I rather rudely asked him what he was doing there on behalf of the Universe," he said, gravely. I thought that was a bit thick, even for Longford, but he meant that he was writing an article for the Catholic newspaper of that name.

Back in the Commons, MPs were debating the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill. Many seemed outraged by the fact that a psychologist or a psychiatrist will be one of the new commissioners who will decide if terrorist prisoners get out early.

Mr Robert McCartney (UKIP, Down N) said darkly that he had had long experience of both types. "They are extraordinarily gullible people who practise this bizarre branch of medicine." I was slightly riled, since my wife is a psychologist. But, so, surprisingly, is Mr McCartney's wife, and they have been happily married for 37 years. Maybe they get over the matter by mutual consent.

David Maclean, a Tory, got into a terrific huff and said ministers were twice as good at deciding who should get out as either psychologists or psychiatrists. Any terrorist, he implied, could fool a shrink. He was berated by Adam Ingram, the prisons minister.

Gosh, he got cross. "It does not behave the minister to be as disrespectful to me." Like "besmirch" it is a word you never hear outside Parliament or a court of law.

Prime Minister hails EMU as 'turning point' in unstable world □ Summit agrees to remedy confidence crisis

## Blair signals early euro entry

Martin Walker and Michael White

TONY BLAIR told the European summit yesterday that Europe and the euro zone were "a pillar of stability in an unstable world", signalling the start of a campaign to prepare British voters for early entry into the single currency.

"The world economy is facing its greatest risk in two decades," Mr Blair said, arguing that the Asian crisis and Japanese recession were creating such volatile circumstances they could justify Britain seeking a safe haven in the euro zone.

"EMU has been a turning point," he told his fellow European Union leaders. Its sound macro-economic policies had led to price stability and would bring high growth and employment.

"The measures we are taking in Britain to get rid of the budget deficits we inherited and squeeze inflation out of the system are measures that would be necessary inside or outside the euro zone," Mr Blair said later.

"They give us a better chance that the European single currency zone will combine that overall economic stability with the reforms necessary to make industry more competitive and our people more prosperous."

British officials denied any basic policy shift, but a series of pro-European, even integrationist statements, during the day pointed that way. They included a stout defence of the Brussels Commission against charges that it was to blame for Europe's woes from ordinary people.

"The Prime Minister was clearly using the role of the EU presidency to advance the cause of the euro in Britain," a senior EU official noted.

"The mood-music was extraordinarily positive," said Mr Blair, and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have been working on the assumption that they will not stage a referendum on replacing the pound with the euro until after the likely 2002/2 general elections. But some MPs believe global economic uncertainty could speed up that timetable.

William Hague has set the Tories against early entry and victory is far from assured — unless voters see the euro as a "safe haven". In his chairman's role as president of the Council of Ministers yesterday Mr Blair also managed to deflect Chancellor Helmut Kohl's predicted demand for reductions in Germany's budget payments, even though the Dutch strongly back Mr Kohl. Disussions wait until the Commission's budget reform plan is published in the autumn.



Nelson Mandela greets well-wishers in Cardiff. But the summit failed to deliver on open-trade promises made to him earlier. PHOTOGRAPH: KEN SMITH

"We are coming at this from a pro-European perspective, not the old Euro-scepticism," the Prime Minister's spokesman stressed.

Responding to Mr Blair's Euro-enthusiasm, the EU summit unanimously accepted Britain's argument that Europe faces a crisis of confidence with its people. The 15 heads of government agreed to meet ways to make it less remote and more accessible.

There is a consensus on this as Europe's main prob-

lem, that our electorates want to be part of a strong Europe but they do feel remote from it," said the Prime Minister's spokesman. "People must see decisions being made at national and local level."

Mr Kohl made a powerful speech on behalf of Britain's long-standing advocacy of "subsidiarity" — making decisions at local and national level wherever possible — although officials noted that the German and British concepts of subsidiarity were not necessarily identical.

The most likely outcome of the new informal summit in October, according to a range of European sources, is an endorsement of the proposal from the EU president, Jacques Santer, that a new council of deputy prime ministers from each member state should take over the role of co-ordinating the work of EU institutions and governments.

The EU leaders adopted a strongly-worded declaration on Kosovo and increased Serbia's isolation by imposing a

ban on all flights from Yugoslavia to the EU. But they ducked the legal issue of whether or not they would back Nato military operations without a UN mandate.

Officials were still haggling last night over the terms in which the final statement could refer to Turkey's application to join the EU, after the refusal by Greece to accept a British compromise of calling Turkey "the 12th candidate".

Cardiff summit, page 5  
Kosovo waits, page 6

## Review

## What exactly is a loyalist loyal to?

Mic Moroney

As the Beast Sleeps  
Peacock Theatre, Dublin

WRANED on BBC Northern Ireland radio plays, Belfast playwright Gary Mitchell is about as authentic a mouth-piece for the loyalist underclass as you can get, and he has been pumping out stage, radio and TV scripts since taking up the pen in 1981.

This, his 16th play, is another stark cautionary thriller set in his native Rathcoole, the sprawling loyalist estate north of Belfast. The action revolves around a clandestine drinking club, its offices and infamous back room, where both Catholics and disloyal Prods have lost wits, teeth, fingers and lives.

There is no mention of referenda or Good Friday Agreements which, frankly, happen far from the characters' lives, but the play is set in the rolling here and now.

Typically, Mitchell needles into the corrupt hegemonies, class divides and secretive command structures that run from Unionist politicians down through the UDA and vigilante factions — a chain crumbling under the pressures of the peace process.

The question of loyalty — to friend and family, or to self and Ulster — provides the lead Catch-22 for Kyle, a local hard man. The bank jobs and sectarian murders that he once carried out with his team are no longer valued by the suits and ties of the new order, who want the renegade elements "taken out of circulation".

Cold-shouldered by the club, Kyle and his volatile but

loyal mate, Freddie, place their trust in the local Brigade commander, himself under the stranglehold of the politicians. Meanwhile, the accountant who runs the new, semi-legitimate club — Frank McClusker, delivering one of the most hateful characters ever seen on the stage — is a worse villain than the dim doorman, whose cricket-bat diplomacy is the pivot for the bleak but uproarious comedy of pool cues and near-batterings.

Mounted in three neat mini-sets on a revolving stage, the play could have done with clearing up a bit here and there.

It is never entirely apparent, for instance, whether Kyle's bolshie moll, Sandra (Cathy White, whipping her hands around like the tail of an angry cat), is bedding Freddie behind Kyle's back. But there is little place for intimacy, as the scenario lurches towards the queasy payoff of the long, agonising, whodunnit torture scene.

Director Connal Morrison works the cast up from manic hatred to a raucous frenzy at every step in the command structure, from the penniless low rankers by the bar to the ubiquitous object of Mitchell's ire: the apocalyptic politician, slaving after his blood money, which has vanished in a mysterious heist.

With the flinty Stuart Grabham in the key anti-hero role, this is a far more uncompromising piece than Mitchell's award-winning *A Little World Of Our Own*.

Mitchell writes fearlessly but, most important, while dissecting the conflict and lampooning recognisable stereotypes, his angry dramatic equations never fetter the Troubles.

## Drugs mule violin player jailed

Janie Wilson

A FORMER BBC Young Musician of the Year (semi-finalist) who smuggled cocaine worth £500,000 into Britain was jailed for four years yesterday. Hannah Thompson, aged 25, a violin contestant in the BBC's prestigious competition in 1992, became a "mule" for a drugs gang after going into debt and becoming addicted to alcohol and drugs.

Last year she was promised £5,000 by a gang of Nigerian traffickers to smuggle the 5kg consignment from Brazil hidden under toys in a holdall. But customs officers in Britain had been tipped off and she was arrested outside a friend's house in London.

After she was caught she agreed to help customs investigators catch the gang. Her co-accused, Bennett Iwenofu, 40, an illegal immi-



Thompson: "undoubted talents" wrecked by drug addiction

grant from Nigeria, whom the judge described as "callous, cunning and unscrupulous", was jailed for 14 years after Thompson gave evidence against him. He recommended that he be deported on release from prison.

Sentencing Thompson at Isleworth Crown Court in West London, Judge David Miller said it was so sad to see a woman of her "undoubted talents" become hopelessly addicted to drugs. "It seems to

me that your life is an example of the incredible harm that drugs can do to promising young people."

However, the judge said he was able to make "very substantial reductions" in her sentence because she had faced up to matters, pleaded guilty to smuggling and given evidence for the prosecution.

During the trial the court was told that Thompson, a former convent school girl whose father is a retired

army officer and Catholic deacon, had been taking drugs since she was 12. After leaving school she had taught at a mission school in Lesotho, returning to Britain to study geography at King's College, London. She dropped out after a year and her use of drugs such as LSD, crack cocaine, amphetamines and ecstasy escalated.

Giving evidence last week Thompson, of Southall, west London, said she suffered from acute depression, anorexia and alcoholism. "I was taking drugs and was drunk most of the time."

She paid for her drug habit by earning up to £120 a day hawking in central London. "I spent the money on as many drugs as I could find," she said. With debts of more than £7,500 she was at a low ebb when last summer she met Iwenofu, a cleaner at Club 15 in Piccadilly Circus, an illegal central London drinking den.

Iwenofu bought her cocaine and asked her to smuggle, first cannabis from South Africa, then the cocaine from South America.

After flying to Sao Paulo via Zurich in November last year, she spent a week in a hotel smoking crack cocaine provided by the men in the smuggling operation. When she left one of the gang put the cocaine under a pile of toys in her blue holdall.

Thompson's lawyer, Michael Morris, said she hoped her case would highlight the dangers of narcotics and "prevent someone else from destroying her life by resorting to illegal drugs".

## Macs and Mcs 'stand higher risk of MS'

Sarah Booseley  
Health Correspondent

A SCOTTISH surname is invariably a matter of pride, but researchers yesterday published the disturbing discovery that those who bear the prefix Mac or Mc also have an increased risk of multiple sclerosis.

Dr Peter Rothwell, of the Department of Clinical Neurology, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and a colleague appear to have found an answer to a strange medical conundrum — why there is virtually no multiple sclerosis at the Equator, but that incidence of the disease increases by latitude the further north or south one travels.

The thesis is that there is a genetic factor to MS as well as environmental causes, and that the Scots appear more likely to carry the relevant genes than other races.

A high incidence of MS is found in those places where expatriate Scots tend to cluster, such as the south island of New Zealand, south Australia and the northern states of the US.

Writing in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry*, the doctors point out that the Faroes, the Orkneys and the Shetlands have been found to have very high rates of MS. They made no mention of Ireland.

"In the past there has been an idea that it has been caused by some sort of infectious agent," said Dr Rothwell yesterday.

"We wanted to know whether MS was highly prevalent elsewhere in Scotland. We looked at the south-east of Scotland and found the highest-ever apparent incidence

in the world and virtually equivalent to those reported in the Orkneys and Shetlands."

The researchers discovered that between 1992 and 1995 there were 12.2 per 100,000 population of new MS cases in the Lothian and Border health regions. This is the highest rate recorded.

When they looked at the rate of MS among those people with a definable Scottish name — the Mac or Mc prefix which dates back to the 13th century or names with comparably certain Celtic origin — they discovered those people were some 24 per cent more likely to get the disease than those without Scottish surnames.

The prevalence of MS increases sharply at the Scottish border, they note, and then remains fairly constant throughout Scotland in spite of the increasing latitude, which is difficult to explain as an environmental effect alone.

"The higher than expected proportion of cases of multiple sclerosis with Scottish surnames in our study is consistent with the hypothesis that Scottish ancestry is associated with an increased susceptibility to multiple sclerosis," the doctors write in the journal.

"Scottish ancestry appears to be a 'risk factor' for the development of multiple sclerosis, and this may explain the high prevalence of the disease in countries in which there are significant numbers of Scottish migrants."

But Scots need not despair, Dr Rothwell said. For the individual Celt, any increased risk is not that significant — two or three in 1,000, compared with the general risk of one in 1,000.

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England fans watching on a big screen in Bordeaux celebrate their team's first goal against Tunisia while in Marseille, French police deal with a transgressor outside the Stade Vélodrome. PHOTOGRAPHS: STEFAN ROUSSEAU (left) and PATRICK VALASSEIS

# Anglophile city braced for invading hordes

New recruits to England's job faction have compounded police problems for the next match

John Duncan, Martin Thorpe and Duncan Campbell

**T**oulouse prides itself on the greeting it extends to visitors and is even laying on a team of ambassadors to sell the spirit of the city to World Cup fans. But the city has been forced to amend its traditional welcome for the English, who are heading their way for Monday's match against Romania.

"We have put more officers on duty for the build-up to the game. We fear there will be trouble," said a police spokesman. "In fact we know there will be trouble. We will do all we can to minimise it."

They have given up any hope of keeping opposing fans apart at the match. The black market and unofficial tour operators have already made that impossible.

Toulouse is a beautiful medieval city, wealthy, anglophile and rugby-loving — very different from Marseille, a traditional port with a large immigrant population sympathetic to Tunisia.

But the policing problem before next week's game is the same — how to deal with the English. This time, however, the matter is complicated further by the fact that hooligans previously unknown to the police are thought to have played a big part in orchestrating the violence in Marseille.

Before the World Cup started, Britain's National Criminal Intelligence Service database had listed 700 category C "fans" — the known troublemakers.

Category B "fans" are those who sometimes get into trouble, usually when drunk, and category A are the well-behaved travelling supporters.

The total database of 6,000 contains the names of 200 who are believed to be the most active and most violent. Now there is another category, the new troublemakers.

When their team plays abroad, it rarely takes the English job elements long to find each other. They congregate in main squares where they are guaranteed bars and the space to gather in numbers.

In Marseille, this focal point was the Quai des Belges, a small waterfront square in the old port, with the official Olympique Marseille café in the centre of one side and large bars on two corners.

Trouble began on Saturday night when Englishmen spilled out to the road from the Café OM. They blocked the road, singing and chanting,

and English at the south corner, drinking and singing. A group of Tunisians drove their cars round the central grass area of the square repeatedly booting horns and taunting the English.

Very little happened. Then at about 4pm a group of Tunisians from the other side of the square organised a march

back to their homes and do it, but you don't just stand behind the police or come over and take the piss out of England like they did. No one takes the piss with England and gets away with it.

"The laws here are a joke. Everyone said they were going to be hard on England but when you get here, where are they? Nowhere. We did pretty much what we wanted on Sunday."

The situation simmered as the bars carried on serving and the English moved to an Irish bar, O'Malley's, about 500 yards away from the square on the Quai de Rive Neuve. Once again they were allowed by police to regroup and at 8pm they jeered at riot police who stood and watched a group of about 20

across to the English bar with flags and banners. They were not particularly menacing. One English job, a known hooligan according to police sources, threw a bottle and quickly the situation escalated, with many more joining in. The police were on the scene rapidly and cleared the area with tear gas.

"THE wheels of justice were hardly turning much faster at Southwark crown court, where Judge Mervyn QC decided to send a jury home early. The four men and eight women were told they could go after the judge decided there was a risk they would be so preoccupied with the goings-on in Marseille that they would be unable to focus on their verdict in the trial of six men and a woman accused of conspiracy to defraud.

"THE Saudi Arabia squad will be hoping that justice in France is not similarly affected. They have more justification than most for invoking that old football cliché, we were robbed — and not just because they lost their opening game 1-0 to an uninspiring Denmark. While the game was being played, a thief entered 10 rooms at their hotel near Lille and stole £26,000 in cash. Counsellors specialising in victims of crime, please form an orderly queue."

— Stuart Miller

have a go let them come and do it, but you don't just stand behind the police or come over and take the piss out of England like they did. No one takes the piss with England and gets away with it.

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across to the English bar with flags and banners. They were not particularly menacing. One English job, a known hooligan according to police sources, threw a bottle and quickly the situation escalated, with many more joining in. The police were on the scene rapidly and cleared the area with tear gas.

"THE wheels of justice were hardly turning much faster at Southwark crown court, where Judge Mervyn QC decided to send a jury home early. The four men and eight women were told they could go after the judge decided there was a risk they would be so preoccupied with the goings-on in Marseille that they would be unable to focus on their verdict in the trial of six men and a woman accused of conspiracy to defraud.

"THE Saudi Arabia squad will be hoping that justice in France is not similarly affected. They have more justification than most for invoking that old football cliché, we were robbed — and not just because they lost their opening game 1-0 to an uninspiring Denmark. While the game was being played, a thief entered 10 rooms at their hotel near Lille and stole £26,000 in cash. Counsellors specialising in victims of crime, please form an orderly queue."

— Stuart Miller

attack a crowded adjacent café. The violence, sporadic and unprovoked, continued to spread. By then, the police had lost control of the group.

By 9.30pm on the other side of the marina, there were running battles between Tunisians and police, with local youths becoming increasingly involved. Two groups of French and English youths attacked each other outside O'Malley's — the French armed with baseball bats, the English throwing bottles.

As Tunisian and French numbers increased, the majority of English moved away and it was left to locals to gather and make noise in the main square, with occasional rounds of tear gas keeping a wobbling order to events. The violence gradually moved up one of Marseille's main streets, the Rue de Canebière.

At about midnight, the remaining English made their way to sleep at the Gare St Charles, where trouble flared again.

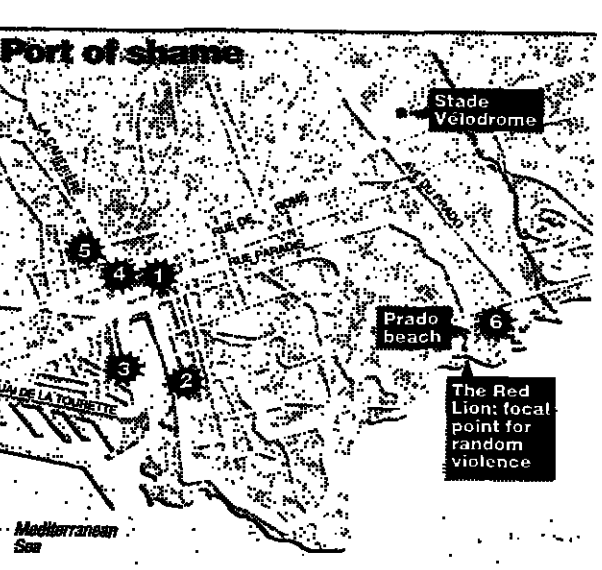
It was there at 12.30am that two English fans were stabbed, one in the throat, the other in the stomach. Both are serious but not critical. By 3am the city was quiet. Only the crunch of glass under foot, the spent tear gas canisters and broken street cafe chairs told of what had passed that evening.

order. He said yesterday that co-operation with the Italian police had been excellent, although even so there had still been some trouble.

"In Bari (where England played Italy for third place), the English fans were welcomed by the local people and that seemed to pay off," Mr George said yesterday. "The atmosphere was excellent and there were no incidents."

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The Italian police, with some baton-wielding exceptions, tried the soft-soy approach. Some Englishmen arrested with drugs as they arrived off the ferries in Sar-



**1 Saturday 13 June**  
Afternoon rioting  
Quai des Belges — Chanting English fans block road, one hurt by motorist.

**2 Sunday 14 June**  
Quai des Belges — Fighting between Tunisians and English fans. Police use tear gas.

**3 9.30pm - 10.00pm**  
Other side of marina. Running battles between Tunisian and English fans and police.

**4 Midnight**  
La Canebière — Violence between fans

**5 12.30am**  
Gare St Charles — Two English fans stabbed.

**6 Monday during match**  
Prado Beach — Violence between fans watching the game on a giant screen.



## Diary

**F**ORGET football, ignore the rioting. The England team may have made a successful start, the English hooligans may have lived up to their reputation, but for France 98 the issue most likely to provoke stress in fans is debating the relative merits of... counselling.

Hard on the heels of the revelation that Tony Adams has flown his own mental guard-

landlord has hired a counselor to deal with the football-induced traumas of his customers.

Seems a good idea? No way, says Angela Patmore, author of a new book about the benefits of stress. She claims sophisticated — and expensive — stress management techniques pale in comparison with the emotional benefits of simply watching a match. So for all those Scotland fans steeling themselves for today's clincher against Norway, remember: it's for your own good.

THEY could, of course, follow the old-fashioned example of many armchair England fans and stick the kettle on. At the stroke of half-time yesterday, the National Grid recorded a 1,000-megawatt jump in output — double the surge experienced at half-time during Scotland's tie with Brazil.

BUT then, there will always be some who come up with their own way of coping with the tribulations of following

## How Italy played pianissimo

At Italia 90, softly softly police tactics led to fuggi fuggi reaction

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

**T**HEY called it *fuggi fuggi*. Loosely translating, it means scattering, or running for cover. And at the end of most long nights during the 1990 World Cup in Italy, *fuggi fuggi* was the phrase most often used by the Italian police to describe what English fans had been up to on the streets of Cagliari, Sardinia, and later in Bologna.

More than 200 fans were arrested and deported from Rimini on the east coast as England were preparing for their match in Bologna. The troublemakers had gone for a seaside break while police watched the campsites of

order. He said yesterday that co-operation with the Italian police had been excellent, although even so there had still been some trouble.

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Drunken Englishmen paraded up and down the seafront of Cagliari during the early stages of Italia 90, picking fights with young locals. But police avoided using tear gas, relying on a policy of moving people on and separating the English from the locals.

The Italian police, with some baton-wielding exceptions, tried the soft-soy approach. Some Englishmen arrested with drugs as they arrived off the ferries in Sar-

dinia were surprised to find themselves let off with a warning.

Drink played its part in Italy, as it has done in France. But the upshot was largely good natured.

"Unfortunately alcohol does have a major part to play," Mr George said. "We've tried banning it but how possible is that? It is legal."

Italia 90 saw the beginnings of what has become an increasingly sophisticated European-wide network for the exchange of police intelligence on football violence.

But Italian police were anxious to avoid confrontations and hence tried not to up the ante by resorting to tear gas. Maybe they were just lucky in that most of their problems went no further than *fuggi fuggi*. As Mr George said yesterday: "Total security can never be achieved."

Steel doesn't grow on trees.

Think Wood

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY. EVEN LAST YEAR'S AD IS RECYCLABLE.

THINK WOOD



صبرًا من الأهل



صباحنا من الامم

The Guardian Tuesday June 16 1998

EU fails to deliver on promised exports deal with South Africa □ Clashes over Europe's next moves loom for Britain and Germany

## CARDIFF SUMMIT 5

# Mandela trade hopes dashed

Michael White and Liz McGregor

**W**HAT should have been a triumphant valentine to the British for finding his defence in the treason trial that put him in jail for 27 years, "I know how generous the British are," he said.

But he reminded them of the 254 billion rand debt his government had inherited from the apartheid government, how the servicing of that debt swallowed the funds that could have fed and housed the 20,000-odd homeless children "whose hopelessness and anxiety" haunted him and gave him sleepless nights.

At stake in the trade negotiations are such key South African exports as wine, cut flowers, and citrus fruits. The South Africans argue that since their seasons are the opposite of Europe's they do not compete directly, although they pay the same tariffs as the US.

The EU case hinges on "WTO compatibility". That requires a reciprocal opening of trade to cover an average 90 per cent of products on both sides. Its aim is to prevent local distortions which, in this instance, could hurt neighbouring African states.

The EU side is offering 95 per cent, including the disputed products, but until this month Pretoria was seeking exemptions on 1,200 mainly manufactured products, reduced on June 10-11 to around 100. That puts it within the 85 per cent range — meeting the 90 per cent average. EU companies want to be able to compete for South Africa's infrastructure contracts.

South Africa's complaints amount to saying that European leaders made generous promises when President Mandela took power and basked in his reflected glory. But they do not put their money where their mouths are.



Tony Blair waiting on the steps of Cardiff City Hall to welcome EU leaders to the summit yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF MORGAN

## Kohl's pay demands test Blair

**Martin Walker on problems Labour faces in trying to create a new Europe with like-minded modern social democrats**

**C**HANCELLOR Helmut Kohl's election-driven plea for some relief for Germany's massive net payments into the European Union budget is as serious and as well-founded as Mrs Thatcher's similar if more strident demands nearly 20 years ago.

But it presents Britain with two problems. The first is the fear that any fundamental reassessment will put Britain's special deal at risk. This can be managed.

The draft plans already circulating among the commissioners in Brussels for a new payments system suggest scrapping the current confused mix of VAT receipts and shrinking tariffs on imports and moving to a straightforward levy through which each country pays a direct proportion of its GDP.

This will satisfy Germany, and will on current figures lead to Britain paying even less than its does now.

The second problem is far more tricky. It has long been Britain's strategy to nudge apart the Franco-German axis which has driven Europe since the 1950s, and if not to replace France in that alliance then to craft a more open three-sided system.

Beyond the short-term question of the old warhorse Helmut Kohl being replaced by the man Germans dub Herr Blair, the Anglophile Social Democrat leader Gerhard Schröder, this core question of the future of Anglo-German relations faces a series of severe tests.

However much Tony Blair wants to build his new Europe of like-minded modern social democrats with

Mr Schröder and the even more Blair-like Rudolf Scharping, SPD leader in the Bundestag, a series of issues are looming where British and German interests are set to clash.

Rather than who pays what, the real question is what Europe's money is spent on. Over 40 per cent of the budget goes on farming. So far more serious for Anglo-German harmony is Britain's determination to use the enlargement process to kill off the Common Agricultural Policy.

But farmers, and their devotion to the CAP, remain a far more powerful political force in Germany than in Britain, and Germany is so far blocking any serious approach to CAP reform. This obstruction will continue through the Austrian presidency of the EU, which starts on July 1, to be followed in turn by the German presidency next year.

Then comes the problem of the EU's Structural Funds, on which a third of the EU budget is spent. Britain is fighting hard in the trenches of the Brussels bureaucracy to ensure that Northern Ireland and the Highlands and Islands continue to get full Objective One status, even though neither qualifies for the EU's poverty criterion of a per capita GDP of less than 75 per cent of the EU average.

The German EU Commissioner for Structural Fund, the Social Democrat Monika Wulf-Mathies, wants the rule firmly applied — to the benefit of the former East German provinces.

Then comes the problem of Turkey, which Britain wants to resolve by accepting this strategic NATO ally as "the 12th applicant" for EU membership. Chancellor Kohl, who has made some unfortunate comments about the EU as a family of Christian nations and whose country already contains some 2 million far from assimilated Turks, was visibly content at the way Turkey was given the brush-off at the last EU summit.

By far the most serious problem, however, is the one which on the surface looks the most harmonious — Germany's firm support for that

British principle of "subsidiarity", which means decisions being taken wherever possible at national or local level rather than by Brussels.

Chancellor Kohl is currently passionate about "subsidiarity" because he has been outraged by a series of Brussels decisions. There was the record fine on Volkswagen for price-fixing, and another ruling which declared illegal the state aid for a Volkswagen development in former East Germany.

Most infuriating of all was the decision to block a German pay-TV merger. Mr Kohl, keen to keep his media barons sweet in an election year, had threatened the EU Commission President Jacques Santer with "war" over the issue.

Britain's interest is the

reverse, to strengthen this kind of pro-competition work by Brussels in the interests of a free and single market.

It is Mr Blair's hope that these divergent interests are the products of a Kohl era which may soon be fading, and can all be resolved in the glow of "Third Way" consensus with Mr Schröder as the new chancellor.

And yet the likeliest outcome of the German elections seems to be a grand coalition, in which Mr Schröder governs with Christian Democrat support, which will keep the problem of German farmers and German corporations edgily alive.

Mr Schröder will inevitably govern with German interests in mind. The new Anglo-German entente will prove hard to achieve.

## Rioting fans put PM on defensive

**Sketch**

Michael White

**T**ONY Blair grappled manfully with a public relations disaster at the European Union summit in Cardiff yesterday. Here he was, talking about the need to bring the peoples of Europe closer together when the Mar-seille police was spending

most of the day trying to keep them apart. In the circumstances the Prime Minister maintained his dignity, more or less. But he did so at a price: through his official spokesman he gave the French authorities a free hand to deal with what he called "English hoodlums" in whatever way they think fit.

The decision can be dressed up in Euro-jargon, what they call subsidiarity. All the same it was a dreadful fate to wish

on anyone, even drunken English fans. It is one thing to unleash "Maximum Jacques" Straw on football delinquents, but French riot police? Not since the mayor of Philadelphia accidentally firebombed local voters has a politician been so reckless with the customers' safety.

Apart from that it all went as well as a dull day in Cardiff can go. The city was looking its best. That is to say, it did not rain. True, the new conference hotels were not ready. The new Cardiff Bay Barrage was as empty as a summit declaration and the people of Europe had not been brought closer together by the summit's traditionally draconian security arrangements.

Ironically, Mr Blair did not see the match for which he had suffered so much. While Glenn Hoddle's squad was playing against Tunisia, he was trying to score for England at the last EU lunch of his presidency. Aides said he might see the video later, but already knew the score. Needless to say he was "delighted".

Anxious not to set an bad example to the fans, his visitors all behaved well. Helmut Kohl did not make too much of a fuss about the German budget rebate. Neil Kinnock, who might have been the summit's host if things had been different, made jokes about Cardiff's famous Kohl Exchange. When Welsh minister Peter Bain, toasted "the Queen, coupled with 15 EU leaders" at a dinner, Glenys Kinnock MEP hoped she wasn't coupled with them all.

Mr Blair's efforts to bring the summit closer to the people of Europe included a photo-opportunity with schoolchildren, bussed in on purpose, unlike the Welsh farmers who were trying to prove what good Europeans they are by blocking Fish-guard harbour.

"Would you like a Polo?" a tot asked her prime minister. "Yes," he said and took one. It is hard to imagine Gladstone doing it, but then he had his own ways of getting close to the voters. So far as is known

they did not include poking fun at Bismarck. Would any of the tots recognise Chancellor Kohl, he asked them, indicating that Europe's Mr Big is by no means anorexic.

Some said yes, some said no. It was what New Labour calls a focus group. "Kohl's in trouble with young voters, only a 48 per cent recognition factor," Mr Blair will be able to tell Peter Mandelson.

The summit was held in Cardiff City Hall, refurbished at a cost of £1.5 million and

### Queen opts for Welsh seaweed

**T**HE Queen plumped for traditional Welsh laverbread — boiled seaweed — as a starter for the leaders of Europe at their banquet at Cardiff Castle last night.

The menu drawn up by head chef Trevor Jones and selected by the Queen for the 130 VIP guests was:

*Canapes with leek, laver bread and sea trout;  
Asparagus salad with quail eggs in warm butter sauce;  
Stuffed saddle of salt-marsh lamb with Pembrokeshire potatoes and seasonal vegetables;  
Glamorgan strawberries with elderflower ice cream;  
Welsh cheeses;  
Coffee with warm Welsh cakes;  
Welsh wines.*

good enough for Mr Kohl, but not good enough for Ron Davies's Welsh Assembly which is building a new one. Journalists stayed in student halls but were compensated with a free CD entitled "Wales: an interactive introduction to the best business climate in Europe."

They were compensated for the free CD with free beer tickets with which to watch the England match. Brains, the local brewery, has produced a new bitter called Dylans, after the poet, Dylan Thomas. It is already known as DTA.

## MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES SUDAN EMERGENCY APPEAL

Over one million people in southern Sudan are facing the real threat of starvation. The war has forced people from their homes and land and two years of drought have devastated crops. Médecins Sans Frontières medical teams are running nutrition centres in the worst-affected areas, feeding the most vulnerable, especially children and their mothers. Malnourished people need special feeding mixes, containing vital nutrients. Our teams care for the most severe cases around the clock. MSF is also providing seeds to help people provide for themselves in future. The only long-term solution to the southern Sudan tragedy is peace. But we can't sit back and wait — people need your help now.



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The Guardian Tuesday June 16 1998

**in brief**

**Land and sea search for tornado**

Sea search was launched yesterday for a tornado that was thought to have struck the sea off the coast of the UK. The search was led by the RAF Sea King helicopter, which was joined by two Sea King helicopters from the US Navy. The search was thought to have been successful in finding the wreckage of the plane.

**Pop bubble to burst**

Pop music is set to burst its bubble, according to a report by the BBC. The report says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through. The report also says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through.

**'becoming soft'**

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**is gets images**

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**arges over Diana letter**

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The report also says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through. The report also says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through.

**ut to renew your health insurance?**

The report also says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through. The report also says that the music industry is facing a crisis, with sales falling and new acts struggling to break through.

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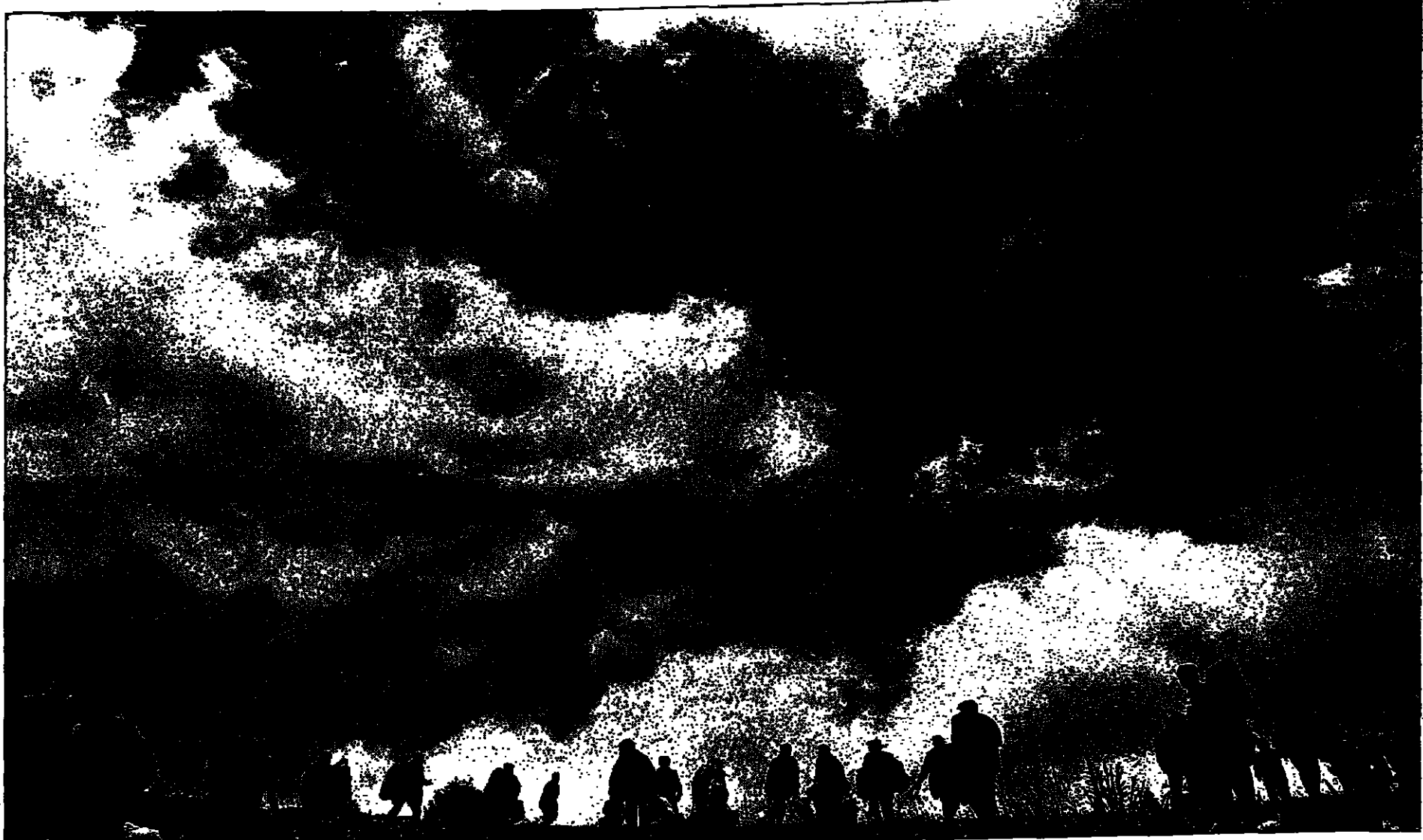
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**Health**

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Children in the Albanian capital Tirana (above) watch Nato planes flying overhead yesterday during air exercises to warn the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, to stop violence in Kosovo. But the display of military might was not seen across the border in the troubled province, as more than 350 refugees (right) fled to Albania yesterday to escape Serbian security forces



## Kosovans wait in vain for West's help

Jets were expected to patrol as a warning to Belgrade, but all **Helena Smith** could see on the Kosovo border were butterflies

**W**E WAITED and waited and NATO never came. Where were the Harriers, F-16s, reconnaissance planes and C-130 aircraft carriers? Where was the promised show of Western military might over the border across which thousands of ethnic Albanians had streamed to escape their Serbian tormentors? Where, asked a perplexed Albanian guard, was Operation Determined Falcon — the long-awaited display of power on his country's north-eastern front?

Kosovo lay before us, the red-tiled roofs of its neat hamlets shimmering in the early morning sun. It lay there, abandoned, silent and still with not a soul, sheep or shadow in sight. Instead of people there were butterflies; instead of planes there were birds. And when they had gone, helicopters — Serbian military MiGs — emblazoned with the insignia of the International Red Cross and crossed in and out of Albanian airspace.

If this was sabre-rattling, it was sabre-rattling in a closet. "None of our teams saw any Nato aircraft flying over the border," said a visibly frustrated official with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

"We had hoped to see at least 10 Black Hawk helicopters flying very low over the

border firing the occasional missile flare."

In Albania, at least, the disappointment was palpable. Nato called its mission of mock air raids a success. "We didn't want to make much noise. It went very well," Francesco Veltri, the spokesman for Allied Forces Southern Europe, told a Finnish journalist.

### SAS in place to guide planes to Serb targets

**S**AS special forces are being deployed in Macedonia to guide RAF aircraft if Nato decides to attack Serb targets in Kosovo, writes **Richard Norton-Taylor**.

The SAS teams have "line of sight" systems which can guide aircraft to fixed targets.

They carried out similar missions during the war in Bosnia.

Nato has drawn up contingency plans for air strikes, but official sources were reluctant yesterday to comment on the details.

Though Nato planes can direct one another to targets, using SAS teams on the ground has the advantage of saving the aircraft for attacks.

SAS soldiers have been in

But for those who stand to lose most from the crisis, there was a sense of being mocked. That feeling increased as we moved down from the front towards settlements of unrelenting poverty where people have accepted scores of refugees into their homes.

"This area has been the main border pass for refugees and it has been the place where the Serbs have concentrated their forces and their heavy artillery," said Shaban Neziri in the village of Kasaj.

"What's the point of flying their planes elsewhere? That's not going to frighten the Serbs. Kosovo will be another Bosnia if Nato continues like this."

Misery, a 22-year-old shepherd, has taken 13 Kosovans into his mud-and-wattle home. His grandfather, Rexhep, who is aged 102, still remembers the Serbs shelling the house during the First Balkan War, shortly before Albania was recognised as a

modern state at the London peace conference in 1913.

For him, like his compatriots, the significance of Kosovo is overwhelming because it was where the Albanian national movement was born — although the Serbs consider it the cradle of their own medieval statehood.

"The Serbs will kill and they will kill again, but this time we have guns," he said.

"We just wished the Western powers had intervened in Kosovo earlier, because everyone knew this was going to happen," added Emir Krasnica, a midwife who fled the southern Serbian province last week.

"We want to return, every day and every minute. Albania's very poor. We can't stay here."

While in high Albania the Nato exercise was found more than wanting, the operation of ethnic cleansing on the other side of the border appeared to have moved into high gear.

Yesterday UN High Commissioner for Refugees officials said they were "dismayed" by the sudden increase of refugees across the border. By 11am some 365 ethnic Albanians had poured across the frontier. In the past week fewer than 200 have made the journey each day.

"Some have come from Gjakova which is cause for great concern. We are considering establishing tent cities to house them in, because some 5,000 refugees are also said to be waiting in the mountains."

As the main magnet for the internally displaced in Kosovo, Gjakova is the central concern for Western officials, who fear it will be the next target of the Serb guns.

Up and down the mountain pass, refugees told of how Serbian security forces fired on them as they tried to escape.

"Helicopters came last night and fired lightning rockets into the skies and then an aeroplane came and shot at us," said Xhem Shehu.

"We had waited in the mountains for two weeks out of fear, but we ran for our lives. Nato must intervene."

## Moscow rebukes Nato on the eve of Yeltsin talks with Milosevic

James Meek in Moscow

**R**USSIA'S defence minister, Igor Sergeev, yesterday accused Nato of deceiving him about its plans for the Balkans in an ominous overture to today's vital talks in Moscow between President Boris Yeltsin and the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic.

Gen Sergeev met General Henry Shelton, chairman of

the United States joint chiefs of staff, in Moscow yesterday. But their views on Nato's exercises in northern Albania, which are designed to intimidate Mr Milosevic, were so far apart they might as well have remained on opposite sides of the Atlantic.

Gen Sergeev complained that he had not been told of the exercises when he met Nato defence ministers in Brussels last week.

"It was a surprise for me,"

he said. "As a soldier, I've become used to valuing honesty in people. I can't understand why I've been treated like this."

Gen Shelton said the exercises had been planned to "reinforce the peaceful steps taken by President Yeltsin".

The defence minister's public indignation at the exercises is a warning to the West that the Kremlin cannot afford, politically, to support direct Nato military action against Serbian forces in Kosovo.

This was underlined by the Kremlin's description of the scheduled return to Moscow of its chief military envoy to Nato, Lieutenant-General Viktor Zavarzin. Although it referred to it as a "recall", Nato officials said the real reason for his return was to get his visa renewed.

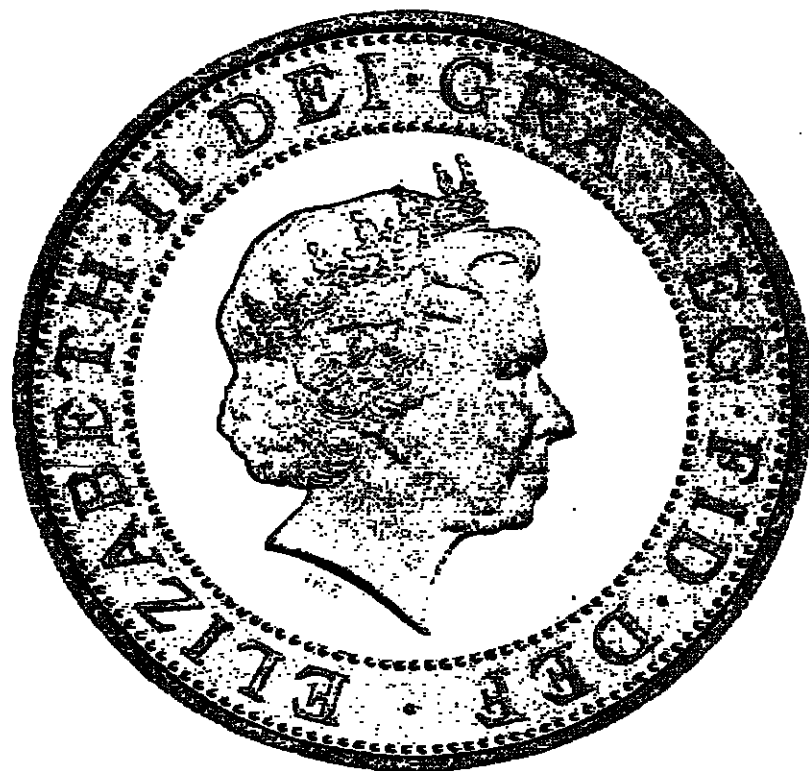
A foreign ministry official, Vladimir Rakhmanin, repeated Moscow's view that without the support of the United Nations Security Council there could be no

legal military moves against Serbia.

Much is riding on today's Milosevic-Yeltsin encounter, with neither Russia nor the West sure about what happens next if the Yugoslav leader does not prove pliable.

For the Yeltsin administration, which has staked its existence on good relations with the West, the only response to a Nato attack on Yugoslavia would be angry rhetoric. But at a time when the president has already been politically damaged by the continuing financial crisis, Nato's bombardment of a sovereign state would make him look foolish in the eyes of Russian patriots for ever accepting that the alliance was defensive in nature.

Behind the scenes the West may be offering to bail out Russia with loans in exchange for Mr Yeltsin's help in the Balkans. This would be a dangerous strategy, because it is no more certain Mr Yeltsin can deliver peace than that the West can afford big new loans.



The new Two Pound coin.  
(See other side for details.)

## French find overtime does not pay as 'job police' watch the clock

Jon Henley in Paris

**S**UCCESS, as every keen young executive knows, comes to those who start early, finish late and take a bulging briefcase home at the weekend. So pity the French corporate climbers who are discovering that working too hard has become a crime.

Before a controversial plan to reduce the working week to 35 hours comes into effect, the government has started raiding companies to make sure executives and other professionals are not putting in more

hours than the current legal limit of 39 a week.

"Several thousand violations have been reported at four or five big companies we have looked at," a spokeswoman at the employment and solidarity ministry said. "They are test cases, really. The status of upper-level employees, management and others has to be clarified."

The raids, carried out by the ministry's 420 inspectors often on tip-offs from trade unionists, have led to bizarre scenes at some companies, according to an investigation by the International Herald Tribune newspaper.

Senior engineers and executives trying to conclude a key contract at a subsidiary of the telecommunications giant Alcatel were surprised to find the job police in their midst at 7pm one evening this year, demanding to know why they were working so late.

In another case, about 1,500 violations of working hours uncovered at a subsidiary of the defence electronics group Thomson-CSF left senior managers facing fines of up to 250,000

each. After negotiations with the ministry, the company agreed to close its corporate headquarters at 7pm every evening.

"We have been warned about this," a junior executive at one of the country's leading DIY chain stores said. "We haven't been inspected yet, as far as we know — but we've been told to be careful. The inspectors can apparently be very devious."

Some reports have claimed that several inspectors have gone as far as photographing car licence plates to deduce their owners' working hours, or monitoring personal computers to make sure that no work was being sneaked home.

Last month the French parliament approved a draft bill cutting the legal working week from 39 hours to 35 hours by 2000, a victory for the Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, who had made the measure a key plank of his election campaign last summer.

The law calls for all companies with more than 20 staff to institute the 35-

hour week by January 1 2000. Smaller firms have two more years to comply, and businesses will be offered tax or other incentives in the first year if they act before the deadline.

The law has been condemned by business leaders, who say it will lead to higher costs, reduced competitiveness and job losses. But Mr Jospin argues that it will help ease France's 12 per cent unemployment rate by spreading jobs around.

Exactly how the law will work will be defined by legislation due next year, but it is already clear that one of the key problems will be its application to cadres — company management, executives and skilled professionals who generally work long hours.

According to the employment ministry, the inspections have been suspended to allow for negotiations on how this group, who make up nearly a quarter of the workforce, will be affected.

For the time being, however, keen young executives may be better off watching the clock than putting in unpaid overtime.

### CATHOLICS!

The Traditional Latin Mass is still widely celebrated with Episcopal permission.

It is often sung with Gregorian chant.

If you would like to worship at this rite of Mass contact

The Latin Mass Society for an information pack 0171-404-4959 24 hrs.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

## Bissa refug crisis sprea

Alex Duval Smith in A  
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West African neighbour

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## Hindu temp Muslim fury

Suzanne Goldenberg



# Bissau's refugee crisis spreads

**Alex Duval Smith** in Abidjan reports on the growing exodus that is threatening to overwhelm West African neighbours

**W**EST AFRICA faced a growing refugee crisis yesterday as thousands of people fleeing fighting in the tiny country of Guinea-Bissau tried to enter neighbouring Senegal and Guinea after being turned away from foreign evacuation ships.

Rebel soldiers insisted in radio broadcasts that they remained in control of at least part of the military garrison in the capital, Bissau.

A spokesman for the Senegalese army, which is supporting Guinea-Bissau's elected president, Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira, told Portuguese radio it had taken control of the garrison but still faced pockets of resistance.

The rebels deny that their revolt a week ago was a coup against President Vieira. They say they want new elections so that corruption in the former Portuguese colony, which has a population of 700,000, can be rooted out.

Yesterday the capital was rocked by heavy shelling after a brief lull. Forces loyal to President Vieira were trying to capture the airport but were being picked off by snipers through minefields planted by the rebels.

Whether or not forces loyal to the president backed by 1,300 troops from Senegal and 700 from Guinea — wrest control of the strategic Bra garrison, the region now has a refugee crisis on its hands.

Senegal closed its border with Guinea-Bissau as soon as the revolt broke out but let in refugees on humanitarian grounds last week after giving them yellow fever and meningitis vaccinations.

According to some reports, there were scuffles and shooting as refugees were turned away from the foreign evacuation ships at the weekend. These people have now left Bissau on foot.

An official in the north of Guinea said on Sunday that about 1,400 people had sought refuge there since Friday. According to one report, 40,000 people have entered Senegal.

Portugal has flown 5 tons of emergency food aid to Sal island in the Cape Verde archipelago, but a foreign ministry spokeswoman in Lisbon could not say yesterday when it would be delivered.

By last night at least 2,000 foreign nationals — mainly Portuguese and Brazilian — had left Bissau aboard ships bound for the Senegalese capital, Dakar. They included 54 Peace Corps members, the United States ambassador and other Western officials. Britain has no diplomats in Guinea-Bissau.

The evacuation operation, which began last Wednesday under the command of the Portuguese army, turned to tragedy on Sunday morning when an overcrowded boat capsized and up to 200 people drowned.

Information continued to be scarce and unreliable. Both the country's airports remained closed yesterday and international telephone lines were working only intermittently.

A local journalist working for the French news agency AFP said the rebel leader, the former armed forces leader Major Ansumane Mane, had strong support in the Muslim north — an area with strong ties to Senegal's secessionist Casamance region.

The Gambian-born Maj Mane, a guerrilla in the 1961-1974 liberation war, was sacked as armed forces chief in January, along with 13 other top brass, amid allegations that he had been involved in smuggling arms to Casamance rebels.

Later he told a parliamentary commission of inquiry that the defence minister and President Vieira had also profited from the arms trafficking.

The rebellion, reportedly involving a sizeable proportion of the army, broke out shortly before the commission — made up of MPs from the ruling and opposition parties — was due to deliver its findings, on Monday last week.

A Portuguese journalist close to President Vieira said the president had recently made several trips to Europe and had moved his wife and children to Paris. There has been speculation in Guinea-Bissau since January that a coup was imminent.

But troops on both sides have rejected several offers of outside intervention, including West African capitals to gather support for a mediation effort.



Refugee children fleeing Guinea-Bissau wait to disembark in Dakar harbour, Senegal, on Friday

PHOTOGRAPH: JOAO RIBEIRO

# A conflict that borders on the insane

Despite yesterday's news that Eritrea and Ethiopia are halting air strikes, the fighting looks set to go on, **David Gough** in Adigrat writes

**L**ETGEBRIEL Getsadik was making tea in her two-room house in Adigrat, northern Ethiopia, when she heard the plane overhead. She remembers shouting from the street calling on people to flee their houses. Picking up her two-month-old baby Angsom, she rushed out towards the shelter of a tree, but both she and the baby were hit by flying shrapnel from cluster bombs dropped by the Eritrean jet.

Gottom Mesele, a 27-year-old teacher, lying on his side on the bed next to her in Adigrat hospital, nursed back wounds suffered during the raid, which killed four and injured 30.

He was collecting the dead and distributing them to people like himself displaced by the fighting when the bombs fell. "It was as if the skies were raining metal. I don't know why the Eritreans are doing this to us, but I do know that until they leave our land we are going to fight. If God allows it, I will take revenge for this cowardly attack."

The victims of this bombing raid on the village of Adigrat last Thursday were the latest civilian casualties in the border conflict, which threatens to escalate into all-out war.

Ethiopians are shaking their heads in disbelief. "This is bad news for Africa," a Western diplomat in the capital, Addis Ababa, said. "This conflict just doesn't make sense to anybody."

A taxi driver in Addis Ababa, throwing his newspaper in disgust through the open car window, said: "This fighting is beyond belief. Have we not suffered enough already through 30 years of war?"

As the conflict threatens to escalate, the mood in Addis Ababa remains calm and life continues as normal. But in the north people speak of nothing but the fighting with their former ally in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Kiros, from the village of Wukro, is 17 and afraid he may fail his exams next week. "I have not been studying since this conflict began. We are all very worried about this war and think of little else," he said.

Tamrat Yilma, a tour guide, has ferried tourists about northern Ethiopia for 19 years. Zalambessa, a frequent stopover, is now in Eritrean hands. "This town has always been in Ethiopia," he said. "Now the Eritreans will have us believe it is theirs."

Observers and participants alike wonder why the war is being fought. The disputed territory is a rocky outcrop reminiscent of a glass stone quarry. Eritrea and the northern Ethiopian areas bordering it are mostly rock, the land infertile and inhospitable.

Pride seems to be the primary motive. Tekle Mesfin, a water resources manager from the town of Adi Hageray, on the edge of the disputed area, said: "All Eritreans, from the president down to a common shoe cleaner, think that they are superior to us Eritreans."

Nevertheless, Ethiopians are eager to stress that the Eritrean president, Isaias Afewerki, and not the Eritrean people are to blame.

"Isaias is a madman," said Aylew Kassam, a geant in the Ethiopian army whose wife is Eritrean. "We have no quarrel with the people of Eritrea."

A professor of contemporary history at Addis Ababa University suspects that the conflict is economically motivated.

"Isaias resents the economic development going on across the border in Ethiopia," he said. "He has seen one after another of his grandiose economic schemes fail and he wants to punish Ethiopia for its successes."

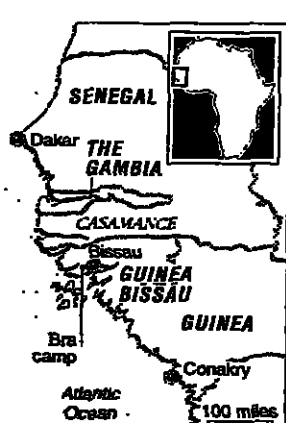
Ethiopia has enjoyed economic growth rates of about 6 per cent for the past five years. But both countries stand to lose economically from the conflict. Eritrea imports half its food from landlocked Ethiopia, which in turn brings in 70 per cent of its imports through the Eritrean port of Assab.

The diversion of this traffic to Djibouti will cost Eritrea dear. Similarly, Ethiopia faces fuel and transport shortages as trucks are requisitioned to carry troops and supplies to the front.

Eritrea has rejected peace proposals which require it to withdraw its troops to their pre-May 6 positions, and Addis Ababa refuses to accept any form of mediation while Eritreans occupy Ethiopian land.

An Ethiopian government spokesman said: "There is no country in the world that negotiates under occupation."

Mr Mesfin agrees. "If my neighbour wants to take over one of the rooms of my house, then I must kick him out before I start to talk with him again."



# Hindu temple stokes a blaze of Muslim fury on Ayodhya ashes

The holy warriors are building on the rubble of a mosque they razed, reviving memories of a shameful episode in Indian history. **Suzanne Goldenberg** reports

**Suzanne Goldenberg** in Ayodhya

**T**HE stone carver smooths his hand over the golden curve of what will one day be a pillar, nods his head and returns to work with the high, clear sound of hammer against chisel.

Beneath the shadow of a giant stone-cutting wheel, craftsmen chip away, coaxing Hindu deities and figures from the stone and — some fear — religious passions that have been stifled for five years.

On December 6, 1992, watched by politicians who are now in the coalition cabinet led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Hindu zealots desecrated up to the three domes of a 16th-century mosque, the Babri Masjid, then razed it to the ground with sledgehammers.

The act transformed Ayodhya, a sleepy temple town revered by Hindus as the birthplace of Lord Rama, as well as the BJP, which rode to power on the swell of religious feeling.

Years later, the destruction of the Babri Masjid is seen as the most shameful episode in modern India. Thousands died in the riots that followed, and Indian Muslims have yet to trust the state again.

Now the sponsors of the stone-cutting workshop, the Hindu extremist Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP or World Hindu Council), are building a grandiose temple on the rubble of the mosque.

The temple, designed by Chandrabhanu Somapura — the architect of Neasden's Swaminarayan temple — is years from completion. But last week it was the subject of such controversy that the prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had to assure parliament his government would not violate a supreme court ruling barring construction on the site.

But it will be hard to convince liberals or Indian Muslims of the BJP's sincerity. The party's election manifesto this year read: "The BJP is committed to facilitate the construction of a magnificent Shri Ram Mandir at Ram Janasthan [Ram's birthplace] in Ayodhya, where a makeshift temple already exists."

The BJP dropped the pledge when it entered into coalition rule, but Muslims remain suspicious.

"This is only the beginning," said Zafarab Jilani, a Lucknow lawyer and convenor of the Babri Masjid Action Committee, which has fought for years for legal recognition of Muslim claims to the site.

"We have suspected for a long time that when the BJP came to power they would start removing the obstacles to construction of a temple."

It seems unlikely that such niceties will be heeded by the holy warriors of the VHP, who are unrepentant about destroying the mosque.

"The mosque was a stain on independent India and now we have removed it. We have corrected history," said Paramhans Ram Chandra Das, a bearded holy man who heads an influential Hindu sect and is president of a trust that has raised 90 million rupees (£1.3 million) for the temple.

He argues that work on the temple has gone on unnoticed since 1994, and that the recent furor is political. "In order to belittle the impact of the nuclear explosions the opposition is creating a fuss about it."

Floors and panels for the ground floor of the temple are complete, as are almost half of the 106 pillars that will support the next storey. VHP activists say they decided earlier this year to step up activity at the Ayodhya workshop and three other stone carving sites in the western state of Rajasthan, where work started in 1996.



An Indian craftsman (above) chisels away at stone pillars for the Hindu temple

PHOTOGRAPH: JAY ANANDHAN

Officials say they are powerless to shut the workshop because it lies a mile from the site — outside a court order. Muslim activists say such reluctance is characteristic of the original legal dispute over Ayodhya has been languishing in the courts for 49 years because judges fear a verdict could be explosive.

Of the original players in the dispute, only Mr Paramhans and a Muslim tailor, Mohammed Hashim Ansari, are still alive. The case was filed when Mr Paramhans crept into the mosque and planted an image of Ram inside.

Instead of removing the offending idol and treating the act as a trespass, local officials allowed both sides to contest ownership of the site in court, leading to decades of judicial inaction.

In the meantime, the site has become a fortress guarded by 1,500 security men. Hindu worshippers approach the single image of Ram, visible through a flap in a canvas tent 25 yards away, by snaking along an enclosure of thick iron bars and mesh, and only after they have been frisked three times.

Mr Ansari said: "It is not a question of one mosque. It is a question of the existence of the Muslim community as a Muslim community. If the Hindus can capture our religious places by force, then nothing is safe. This is the place where we have to fight decisively."

His opponents are as determined. Several temple activists say they have met regularly with BJP leaders, especially the home minister, L. K. Advani, who faces criminal charges in connection with the destruction of the mosque.

The holy warriors believe the temple will be built, and with the BJP's connivance. "Though they are hemmed in by the constitution and political pressure from other parties, I still believe they will go ahead either directly or indirectly," said Mahant Nityanagopal Das, who is in charge of a temple complex in Ayodhya.

"Until now they have been busy saving the government, but I hope in the time to come they will support us — even if it has to be indirectly."

## News in brief

**Journalist's killing prompts Yeltsin to step in**

**T**HE Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday that the killing of an opposition journalist should be investigated "to the utmost".

Mr Yeltsin said officials in the Russian republic of Kalmykia who are investigating the case of Larissa Yudina "cannot be fully trusted", the Interfax news agency reported.

Yudina was found dead last Monday in the Kalmykian capital Elista with knife wounds and a fractured skull.

A Russian news agency said authorities in the southern republic had banned a rally scheduled for yesterday in her honour.

Yudina was the head of the Soviet Kalmykia Today newspaper and was frequently critical of President Kirill Ilyumzhinov. He said on Sunday that he would resign the presidency of Russia in 2000.

One of the three people detained over the killing is a former official in Mr Ilyumzhinov's administration. — AP.

**Nigeria frees 9 political prisoners**

**N**IGERIA's military government ordered the release yesterday of the former ruler General Olesgun Obasanjo and eight other political prisoners.

General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the new president, "hoped the freed people would reciprocate the gesture by co-operating with the political transition programme", according to a statement.

Those freed include oil union leaders Milton Dabibi and Frank Kokori, journalist Chris Anyanwu, activist Boko Ransome-Kuti, politicians Bola Ige and Olabisi Durojaye, Uwen Ukoh and the former sultan of Sokoto Ibrahim Danbaki.

The statement made no mention of Nigeria's most prominent detainee, Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of elections in 1993. — Reuters.

**Germany fixes fast trains**

The German railway yesterday began replacing wheels on all 23 high-speed trains of the type that derailed and crashed after breaks were found in the same wheels on local trains.

Investigators are focusing on wheel failure as the probable cause of the June 8 accident near Eschbode that killed 100 passengers. — AP.

**ETA arrests**

Spanish police arrested six suspected members of the Basque separatist group ETA yesterday and detained a former top guerrilla after he was expelled from France, officials said. — Reuters.

**Iran quakes**

Two earthquakes measuring 4.5 and 4.8 on the Richter scale hit two provinces in Iran yesterday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, the official news agency Irna said. — Reuters.

**Illegal trade**

The Indian state of Uttar Pradesh declared trade in human

organs illegal yesterday, a month after three surgeons at a state hospital were arrested for allegedly robbing poor patients of kidneys and selling them to rich clients. — AP.

**Shooting spree**

A member of a gun club in the northern German town of Ribnitz-Damgarten shot dead two fellow members and wounded two other people before killing himself after a marital row, prosecutors said yesterday. — Reuters.

**Cave survivors**

Two teenage girls who got lost in a cave when their candle went out survived for 42 days until they were rescued, the Xinhua News Agency said yesterday. Two others died in the cave outside Guiyang in south-west China. — AP.

**Blocked bridge**

On its first full day open to car traffic, the new bridge connecting the Danish capital, Copenhagen, to continental Europe had its first traffic jam yesterday. The bridge that took 10 years to build was beset by motorists who lined up in the wrong payment queues at toll booths. — AP.

# Cosby murder trial begins

**Christopher Reed** in Los Angeles

**T**HE trial begins in Los Angeles today of a young white man who allegedly killed the son of the country's most beloved television father, the black comedian Bill Cosby.

After last week's killing in Jasper, Texas, the case has potential for heightening racial tensions.

It will also test the recent poor record in Los Angeles in sensitive high-profile trials.

The prosecution maintains that Mikail Markhasev, a young Ukrainian immigrant with racist attitudes and drug problems, shot dead Ennis Cosby, a 27-year-old PhD student and teacher of dyslexic children.

He was the only son of the famous actor who played Dr Cliff Huxtable in *The Cosby Show*, which ran for years in the United States and in Britain.

But the evidence is flawed. Ennis Cosby died beside a Los Angeles freeway in January last year while changing a flat tyre on his Mercedes sports car in the early hours.

Mr Markhasev, then 18, allegedly approached and shot him once in the head. However, witnesses are unreliable and physical evidence is scant.

Minutes earlier Mr Markhasev allegedly threatened Stephanie Crane, aged 47, a screenwriter whom Cosby was on his way to visit and who lived nearby.

Cosby had telephoned her and asked her to drive out and shine her car lights for him while he changed the tyre. Before she could do so, a white man with a gun appeared at her car window.

She drove off and when she returned Cosby was dead.

However, she later failed to identify Mr Markhasev in a police parade.

Before the murder, Mr Markhasev was with two people at a public telephone allegedly attempting to call a friend of Cosby's.

They will testify that Mr Markhasev said he was going to hijack the Cosby car, and that he said on his return: "I killed the nigger."

This word is now so inflammatory in America that newspapers use only the initial and dots.

The accused is alleged to have been a habitual user of the "n-word" and to have kicked Cosby in the face after he fell dead.

The trial could become divisive if his racial attitudes were admitted as evidence. It would become especially divisive if he were acquitted.

The prosecution is handicapped by a criminal record of important witnesses, who could gain leniency by testifying against Mr Markhasev. One witness reportedly tipped off police to try to earn a \$100,000 (\$61,000) newspaper reward.

The judge has kept the pre-trial proceedings secret and will not allow television cameras in to court.

He is anxious to avoid the spectacle that marred the trial of O. J. Simpson, the famous sports star and actor who was acquitted of double murder by a black majority jury.

The Cosby trial will be closely covered by hundreds of reporters.

Bill Cosby is not expected to attend, partly in order to avoid a "celebrity" trial.

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# Comment

## Diary

Simon Bowers

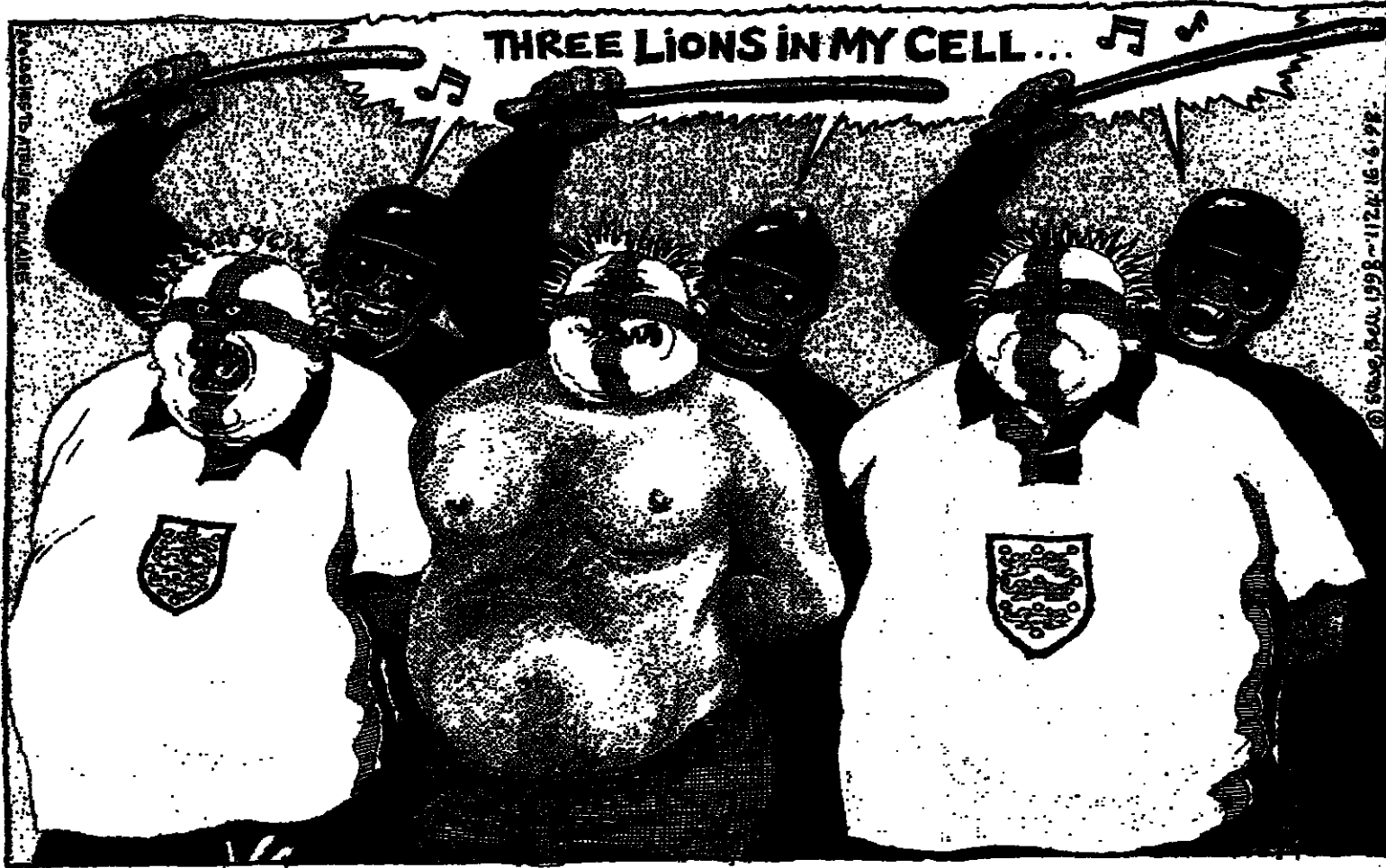
**B**Y WAY of welcoming Ann Widdecombe to her new role as shadow health secretary, you will recall how Labour MP Audrey Williams drew parliament's attention to a 1990 social services committee report on those who care for the elderly and infirm. Miss Widdecombe, she told the House, was alone in opposing the term "carer". This, Ann assured the speaker, was "inaccurate". Audrey has now sent Ann a detailed aide-memoire. "On the issue of carers," she writes, "you suggested that if someone wanted an afternoon free, they could get their next-door neighbour to come and sit with their relatives... You considered [those] who look after relatives out of love would not recognise themselves as carers." We phone Ann to ask the exact difference between "loving" and "caring", and find her on bullish form: "Now I know you're the Guardian, and I know you're mischief-making," she observes, "but I objected to the report because it was just a poorly costed, long wish-list." Say what you will about Ann, we love the feisty old bird, and would be happy to sit with her till the cows come home.

**T**ODAY'S Andrew Mackinlay fact — part of our month-long campaign to land the fearless independence of the MP for Thurrock — concerns his interests outside parliament. To get away from it all, Andrew likes to visit first world war battlefields in France and Belgium.

**D**AYTIME television has been rocked by the behaviour of topical debate show host Robert Kilroy-Gilke. The former Labour MP — so long admired for his ability to reduce studio audiences to frenzied pantomime while remaining singularly unflappable himself — last week suffered a surprise lapse in sangfroid which found him slapping columnist AA Gill about the face, in a Fulham Road Jewellers. "I grabbed him by the upper arm and held it very hard so he didn't walk away," Kilroy told the London Evening Standard. "I said: 'I think we've got to have a little conversation. You can see the whites of my eyes now — why don't you say those things to my face?' and a tussle ensued. The tussle stemmed from remarks Gill made about Kilroy in the press, though neither can recall what they were. "Having to write about Kilroy is bad enough," Gill suggests, "but having to remember what you've written about him is beyond the pale." The only dignified way to sort this ugly spat out is to have a live head-to-head on another daytime programme. Yesterday we rang the Vanessa Show, to ask if Miss Feltz would play host to a "What an interesting idea!" spokeswoman says, "Could you put that in writing and I'll send your message to Vanessa." Consider it done.

**I**N A fascinating essay in the Sunday Times Mohammed Al-Fayed has voiced his thoughts on the mysteries surrounding Diana's death. "The ship of state sails on in majesty having dropped its unwanted passengers," he writes cryptically. "I am not paranoid, I just see things as they are." The diary, too, endeavours to see things as they are, and is intrigued by a possible clue in a memo from Her Majesty's Royal Mail to all members of its junior collectors club. It concerns a special Diana tribute page to be inserted into members' 1998 stamp album: "You may even like to insert it," suggest the powers that be, "between the 'Endangered Species' and the 'Queen's Beasts' pages." No one, it seems, can be placed above suspicion. Mr Fayed puts it best: "Have you noticed how some people are smiling more often these days?"

**T**HE June meeting of Bradwell Parish Council went well. "Planning matters," reports the Derbyshire Times, "included an application from Peak District National Park for the launch of hand-gliders and para-gliders using a portable wench at Bradwell Moor." All that remains is to find a candidate with the right throwing action.



## Before long, the IRA simply has to start handing in some weapons

Hugo Young



**T**HE Northern Ireland peace agreement depended on the breaking of conventions that most elected governments cherish to a fault. Chief among the violators were Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam. In a good cause, they adjusted the norms of both law and public morality. Having seen what had to be done, they courageously did it. They treated with terrorists, sought the approval of jailed murderers for what they wanted, and rode with ruthless clarity over a Unionist veto that had imposed itself for decades on governments either too weak or too belligerent to resist it.

The agreement was a victory for momentum. Two referendums then showed that both parts of Ireland overwhelmingly favoured the product of these manoeuvres, and the sense of exultation has continued. The Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill, providing for the early release of prisoners, is on its way through the Commons, defended by the same political logic that has swept aside as patting the back of the head of a lioness that a legalist might make.

The objections, however, deserve a hearing. In the minds of many people, early release of paramilitary prisoners was supposed to be woven round the de-commissioning of paramilitary weaponry. But the present Bill carefully does not make de-commissioning a precondition of the release programme. This is left instead to the judgment of Dr Mowlam, who can decide whether the IRA and others are "co-operating fully" with the de-commissioning process. A softening of the pledge Mr Blair wrote out by hand to secure the referendum result, but one which has to be accepted, apparently, be-

cause this is a good deal, isn't it? The spokesmen for nationalism take the proposition further. An exasperated John Hume speaks of de-commissioning as "a major distraction", while Gerry Adams and Mitchell McLaughlin openly regard the demand for it as an act of sabotage. On these pages, Kevin Whelan, a respected scholar-journalist, said that any demand for de-commissioning would "guarantee the re-emergence of republican terrorism, murder and butchery". The untrammeled possession of weapons, and the saving of the IRA from the humiliation of surrendering them, were it seems, necessary expedients for keeping Adams in control.

The violence is what counts, say these critics of the elementary proprieties. If the violence has ended, what matter that the instruments of violence remain, rotting and rusting in the hands of an army that is sworn not to use them and which has, in any case, not been defeated? Why disturb the demons by demanding an act of humiliation, when the essence of the matter, the deal, has been secured? The language of the impending statute confers on the Secretary of State a disturbing discretion to permit this philosophy to become the reigning orthodoxy — always assuming that the ceasefire, on which everything depends, continues to prevail.

For the argument is not merely contingent or temporary. It evidently foresees no circumstance in which de-commissioning should be demanded, or at any rate no counterweight, such as the pledge Mr Blair wrote out by hand to secure the referendum result, but one which has to be accepted, apparently, be-

cause this is a good deal, isn't it? The spokesmen for nationalism take the proposition further. An exasperated John Hume speaks of de-commissioning as "a major distraction", while Gerry Adams and Mitchell McLaughlin openly regard the demand for it as an act of sabotage. On these pages, Kevin Whelan, a respected scholar-journalist, said that any demand for de-commissioning would "guarantee the re-emergence of republican terrorism, murder and butchery". The untrammeled possession of weapons, and the saving of the IRA from the humiliation of surrendering them, were it seems, necessary expedients for keeping Adams in control.

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Unionists will vote for at least semi-wreckage at Stormont. The amendments, bemoaned as a break with bi-partisanship, are an act of responsible and necessary opposition, which should goad the cabinet, if not to accept them, at least to make conditionality more emphatic.

But third, the reverence for republican sensitivities is a little excessive. Ulster Unionists aren't alone in looking for proof of compliance. What happened on Good Friday is supposed to have been the transformation of a war strategy into a peace strategy. It was designed as a very big deal, the biggest for 50 years. It was an avowal that "only democratic and peaceful means" would hitherto be deployed that "acts of violence or preparation for violence" would be renounced: that "co-operating fully" with de-commissioning was a sworn promise. Yet John Hume and others suggest that to demand categorical evidence of this is to breach some kind of sacred covenant.

No one is proposing complete and immediate laying-down of paramilitary weapons. No one can compel the laying-down of any weapons at all. But gradual handovers, perhaps informally paralleled by British army force-reductions, are a reasonable and practical demand. They need to be publicly certified by the de-commissioning authority, and ought to be argued, in moderation, if these people are serious, by both Mr Hume and Mr Adams. It is unacceptable to regard de-commissioning as a threat to the honour of republicanism, and intolerable to this of Mr Mowlam as an accomplice in this delusion: another triumph of pragmatic rule-breaking.

SECOND, any sense that this might happen will carry serious penalties on the ground. Though Unionism voted for the deal, the marching season beckons, and the assembly elections take place next week. The militant last-ditchery of Dr Paisley still has time to wreck the agreement if the Protestant vote panics itself into overturning, in effect, what it approved last month. The pretence that de-commissioning need not have explicit rules or a high priority presumes a faith in the goodwill of the paramilitaries which few students of Ulster's history could underwrite. Unless Mr Mowlam's response to the Tory amendments to the Bill reassures them, teetering

on the IRA. De-commissioning must all, apparently, be left to the will of the terrorist, for fear, as Kevin McNamara put it in the Commons last week, that "an increase in violence" might break out. There are three reasons for a supporter of the Good Friday deal to view this submissive attitude with scepticism. The first is that it flies in the face of the agreement, which committed "all participants" to "total disarmament" within two years. Sinn Féin was party to that, and the IRA is Sinn Féin's army. If Mr Adams, signing for Sinn Féin, was serious, de-commissioning cannot be delayed on the pious grounds that it's a distraction, or under the righteous claim that the IRA didn't lose. The precise modalities for de-commissioning will be published by the end of this month. They will specify a phased, inviolable process, with a time-limit. Whatever wessels texts the prison-release bill provides, perversion on any grounds surely cannot be honoured by a responsible British cabinet.

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on the IRA. De-commissioning must all, apparently, be left to the will of the terrorist, for fear, as Kevin McNamara put it in the Commons last week, that "an increase in violence" might break out. There are three reasons for a supporter of the Good Friday deal to view this submissive attitude with scepticism. The first is that it flies in the face of the agreement, which committed "all participants" to "total disarmament" within two years. Sinn Féin was party to that, and the IRA is Sinn Féin's army. If Mr Adams, signing for Sinn Féin, was serious, de-commissioning cannot be delayed on the pious grounds that it's a distraction, or under the righteous claim that the IRA didn't lose. The precise modalities for de-commissioning will be published by the end of this month. They will specify a phased, inviolable process, with a time-limit. Whatever wessels texts the prison-release bill provides, perversion on any grounds surely cannot be honoured by a responsible British cabinet.

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## The Sussex mystery

Paul Foot



**C**OLIN WALLACE, a former army information officer in Northern Ireland, was very sorry he couldn't be in court last Friday for the astonishing climax of the case of Patrick Nicholls. The two men met many years ago in Lewes prison and discussed their predicaments. Patrick Nicholls had been convicted of murdering an old lady after a Home Office pathologist had declared, as his first opinion, that she had died of natural causes (a heart attack). Colin Wallace had been convicted of killing his friend, an antique dealer called Jonathan Lewis, after a Home Office pathologist had declared, as his first opinion, that Lewis had died of natural causes (drowning). In both cases the pathologist changed his mind.

In the Nicholls case, a Dr Johnson, now dead, decided that the old lady had died from injuries caused by a blow to her face. This looked bad for Patrick Nicholls, who visited the old lady on the day she died. In the Wallace case, Dr Iain West decided that Lewis had been knocked out by a peculiar karate-style blow to the bridge of the nose with the heel of a hand, and then dumped in the river Arun. This looked bad for Wallace, especially when newspapers suggested during his trial that Wallace was an expert in unarmed combat, which he wasn't. Both cases were in West Sussex, and in both cases the senior detective in charge of the murder inquiry was Gordon Harrison, who has since retired.

Nicholls and Wallace combined in prison to protest their innocence and lobby the authorities for their release, but to no avail. Wallace served six years; Patrick Nicholls 23. The coincidences continued. In 1996, Wallace's conviction was quashed after new and overwhelming expert evidence reduced the "karate-style blow" theory to ruins. Last week Nicholls's conviction was quashed after expert evidence proved that the notion that the old lady died from a blow to her face was "grossly misleading and has no scientific basis whatsoever".

Two such similar cases in the same county in the space of six years call, surely, for an immediate and open inquiry. The Police Complaints Authority refused both men an investigation in the past. They could and should put that right at once.

NOTHING DELIGHTS A journalist more than the

revival of a spiked story. So I had special cause for rejoicing last week when I read Jeffrey Archer's trenchant reply in the Evening Standard to a piece I had written about him some weeks earlier. When I submitted the piece, I was urged where possible to describe Archer as a "liar". I urged caution. To show that someone has said something untrue in no way proves he is a liar. He could be mistaken. Or he could (as I've often thought about Archer) passionately believe that the balderdash he is talking is the truth. The L-word never appeared. Now, thanks to Lord Archer, the matter can no longer be in any doubt. In 1987, when I was a columnist on the Daily Mirror, I was sent a document from Simpsons store, Toronto, which appeared to be an unsigned statement from a Jeffrey Archer to the effect that he had taken three suits worth \$540 without permission. I wrote to Archer asking him about it. Back came the reply signed in Archer's fair hand: "I was not involved in any such incident".

I had a mass of other evidence backing the story, but no certain proof. Could I publish anyway? The editor of the Daily Mirror, Richard Stott, rightly concluded we could not. The great man's word had to be accepted. The story disappeared. But not forever.

Now, 11 years later, in the Evening Standard, Lord Archer says he was detained in Toronto on suspicion of stealing suits. It was all a misunderstanding, he says, which was quickly cleared up (though he forgot to mention he was taken to a police station). But that isn't the point. Most people can tell the difference between a) "I was not involved in any such incident" and b) "I was involved in such an incident". And if an important person says a) to his lawyer and to a national newspaper knowing that the truth is b) he is, well, a liar.

### Nicholls and Wallace combined in prison to protest their innocence

THERE'S BEEN A lot of speculation about whether or why a Queen's Birthday honour for Richard Branson was blocked. But the answer is in the Honours List itself. One of only three new life peers is Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, which paid out such enormous sums to Richard Branson in the famous "dirty tricks" libel action. An honours list which includes the dynamic chairman of the company admitting dirty tricks and the dynamic chairman of the company against which the dirty tricks were directed would be embarrassing, even for New Labour.

There's no excuse for the football rioting. We must take responsibility

## Send England home

Ruaridh Nicoll

**G**LENN HODDLE believes England will treat the rest of the world's opposition much as his team treated Tunisia yesterday, and go on to win the World Cup. If the England manager's optimism turns out to be fact, there can be no doubt the two Tonys — Banks and Blair — will stand proudly by, ready to tell us that the combined efforts of the happy nation have raised the trophy over St George's head.

For the moment — and for how much longer we wait to see — the England's team's progression can be traced through the smoke and wreckage of its fans' rampages. "It is the actions of the moronic minority that ruin the reputation of English supporters," says sports minister Banks. Vic-

tory or failure on the pitch will be a cause of national joy or despair, but violence on the streets, it seems, remains merely the domain of those few, those very few, who should be despised.

While the nation worries about whether we will lose the chance to host the 2006 contest, many of the French want England's team to be sent home now. I think they have a point. Who are these violent few if not the English? "I've come here for the football and the festival and I've been teared up and I can't even walk around my own town because of these [English] bastards," one French national spat on Sunday night. Dressed in the white bowler hats the Sun handed out, the sweaty mob who smashed up Marseille are nobody else but England's responsibility.

What is it in the national

character that brings on this mob violence, this need that made one fan shout, "This is what the World Cup is all about" as he attacked some foreigners? There have been plenty of football games played already in this festival and an appropriately festive atmosphere.

What is it in the national character that brings on this mob violence?

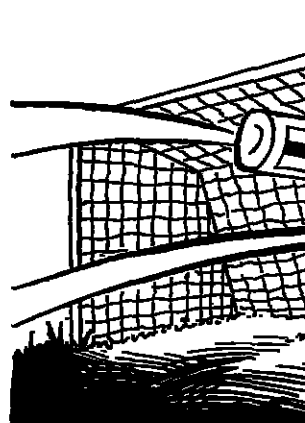
sphere remained until England appeared. Recently a glut of football books have been reaching the shelves, in which the nice friendly universe of Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch gives place to portrayals of an ugly underworld. John King, who wrote

The Football Factory about violence on and off the terraces, has just published England Away, a three-fold tale of English violence in history could underwrite. Unless Mr Mowlam's response to the Tory amendments to the Bill reassures them, teetering

were split into obvious sides and they were mental. Like passengers on a boat, some of us will fight with each other until another boat comes along allowing us to fight with them instead. Obviously it can't be said

of everybody in England: the violence is caused by a minority. But that does not reduce the nation's responsibility to the café owner in Marseille who had her place smashed up.

It seems that the Football Intelligence Unit, which



has spent two years preparing for yesterday's game against Tunisia, is useless. So it has the name of every "Category C" supporter, the so-called "generals of hate", neatly filed. So the British police are the best at controlling football violence in the world. So what?

Tell that to the blood-soaked Tunisian fan on the front of yesterday's Daily Star who looked deeply unhappy under a banner headed "England fan's throat is slit". Tell that to the English fan who actually did have his throat cut. The only way football violence will ever be wiped out in England is for the nation to take collective responsibility for what happened on Sunday night. Let the team be sent home, the nation in disgrace. Let the country take that body-blow to its pride and then see if this so-called "hooliganism" survives.

صوتنا من الامم



# The Guardian

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## Your best film list — where was it's A Wonderful Life?

Barrie Reader, Letters

## Football's rotten core

Get the puppet masters

IF THEY were only drunken louts, it would be much easier. If, as the Sports Minister asserted, they were just "drunken, brain-dead louts", it would be easier still. But although alcohol plays an important role, there are more complicated and unattractive elements too. Speaking in the wake of 12 hours of seemingly senseless vandalism in Marseille, the senior English police intelligence officer sent to help the French spoke yesterday of "orchestrated violence" — specific individuals seeking out supporters in bars and "orchestrating the trouble". The Fifa President spoke of people seeking to use the World Cup as a stage, certain they will obtain the media's attention. Once again football is telling the English — for in respect of football this is an English rather than a British problem — some unpalatable truths. Violence, racism and xenophobia have still not been eliminated from the English psyche. It may infect only a small minority, but the infection's potential for harm is huge.

The Prime Minister was right to be robust in his condemnation. There can be no excuses for the violence. The vandals may only have been a minority of the 10,000 English fans who travelled out to the game, but they remained a sizeable minority: at least 400. Moreover, it was not mindless violence. National Criminal Intelligence Service reports have identified a hard core of right-wing people, who have decided to switch their attention from attending English games in England to international

games. Hence the disruption in Rome during last year's game against Italy and the violence in Dublin in 1995 which forced the Irish international match to be abandoned. Sir Brian Hayes, security adviser to the Football Association and former senior officer with the Metropolitan Police, is right when he says the violence has "very little to do with football" but football provides the drunken minority who are easily manipulated and manoeuvred by the core orchestrators.

But how, after the months of international talks between police and football officials, could violence still break out? Intelligence officers pointed to the numbers: 400 rioters requires 4,000 police to contain them. English police advisers paid tribute to the French police yesterday, but they could have been acting "diplomatically". Certainly our own — and other English reporters — tell a different story: a French police service which failed to snuff out early trouble, failed to keep the English separated from the Tunisian and French, and failed to shut-off areas. There was more trouble before and after yesterday's match as well as clashes on a nearby beach, where initially there were no police in sight.

The start of the trouble coincided on Sunday with the arrival of a double decker bus, sponsored by the Sun, playing the national anthem and handing out bowler hats. Symbolically, in Clockwork Orange, Stanley Kubrick's examination of the right to use violence as a form of self-expression, the working class lads were bowlers. This is not to suggest the bowlers caused the trouble but it is worth remembering Kubrick withdrew his film in England because of his fear of it fueling further violence. There is nothing new in the links between far right groups and violence. It goes back more than 60 years when Oswald Mosley,

the British fascist, directed it. One reason why it is no longer politically directed is because of the young's antipathy towards politics. Football, which generates patriotic feelings and antagonism towards foreign opponents, is a fertile field for current advocates. Metin Kampf noted you only need a few to run a rally; just get a few to start a fight and the rest join in.

## Broken pact

Tories wrong on Ulster

UNTIL NOW, and for five years, Britain's two main political parties have sought to bury their differences in one key area: Northern Ireland. Perhaps they should not have done; maybe it would have been healthier if Britons had engaged in a genuine debate about the war that lasted three decades, conducted at our expense and in our name. But bipartisanship prevailed instead — sending the vital message, said its advocates, that Britain was united in its opposition to terror. Labour respected the approach throughout the last parliament, backing John Major's initiatives in Ulster even when his water-thin majority left him vulnerable to defeat.

Yesterday, however, the Tories seemed ready to break the consensus. The party's Northern Ireland spokesman threatened to vote against part of the legislation turning the Good Friday agreement into law. Andrew Mackay tabled an amendment tying the early release of terrorist prisoners to the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons — so that unless the likes of the IRA, UVF and UFF gave up their arms, they could not expect to see their convicted killers leave the Maze. It sounds reasonable enough. Indeed Mr Mackay insisted his

amendment would merely enshrine into law what Tony Blair had already pledged — in his own handwriting — during the last stages of the referendum campaign. Holding Mr Blair to his solemn word should hardly be controversial, said the Tories.

Except that is not what Mr Blair pledged. His exact promise was that prisoners would be "kept in unless violence is given up for good." That's a demand for the ending of violence but not the surrender of weapons — and the two are not the same thing. As John Hume and others have pointed out, a terrorist army can hand in arms on Monday only to buy new ones on Tuesday; the key question is whether they have truly abandoned violence. Successful peace processes around the world have always avoided the issue of disarmament for this reason: they know it is a red herring. Worse, it tends only to serve as an obstacle to peace. The fear that decommissioning represents, while others can never be fully reassured that the hardmen can re-arm at a later date. The Tories have made a major mistake by raising such a distracting, yet incendiary issue just ten days before Assembly elections in Ulster. They should remember that Labour stood with them when peace seemed a distant dream. Now that it is within reach, they should do the same.

## Goldman's Sachs

Why there is a problem

THE DECISION of Goldman Sachs, the private US investment bank, to go public in an important sense nobody's business but its own. But the sheer scale of what is happening has ensured media interest

everywhere. The company, which employs 11,000 around the world, is owned by under 200 partners who yesterday — after carefully weighing up the pros and the cons — voted to seek a quotation on the stock market, a move that could generate windfall gains of \$50 million each for all of them including the 37 based in London. Nice work if you can get it.

No one denies that Goldman Sachs is very good at what it does even if what it does — buying and selling corporate assets and arranging mergers — may come low down on what most people would regard as essential to the life process. It is doubtful whether the company ever asks itself questions like: "What are we doing for humanity?" or "By how much would life be enhanced or diminished if we didn't exist?" because it never pretends to be anything else than what it is. But even in this post-modern period when it is almost de rigueur not to question the outcome of market forces, someone, somewhere, surely ought to be wondering whether the gigantic disparities in income and wealth between the richest and poorest in our society are an efficient, let alone a fair, way of running the economy in the long run.

It is easier to state the problem than to produce a workable alternative. But at a time when the Chancellor is strongly urging all employees to exercise restraint in order to curb wage inflation and bring interest rates down, it almost beggars belief that the leaders of business often feel themselves exempt from such strictures as if they live in a completely different world to the rest of us. The question why a Goldman Sachs director is "worth" \$60 million while a teacher is "worth" under \$25,000 a year is a difficult one to answer satisfactorily, but that doesn't mean it is wrong to ask.

## Letters to the Editor

### Trains of thought

THE cover of the Good Friday Agreement booklet (How Cape Town set out Ulster's future, June 15) is more apt than you may think. When in Cape Town last June, I was surprised to see David Trimble and Martin McGuinness pictured in the local paper, the Cape Times, attending a constitutional conference held in the Cape resort town of Arncliffe. Although national and republican Irish politicians apparently insisted on separate accommodation and conference facilities, Trimble, ironically echoing the old South Africa, reportedly were seen together singing Irish songs in a local bar late one evening. There is, of course, an even older precedent for a Cape beach representing Ireland. David Leat used Noordhoek in Cape Town for beach scenes in Ryan's Daughter. Terence Green, London.

I CAN see three benefits of bio-engineered food: more food, less crop failure to pests and abolished use of pesticide. However, pest resistance is short-term. As crops change so do pests. It won't be long before new pests exploit GM crops, which are only resistant to the pests producers know about, not to the ones they don't. Also the consumer knows so little about bio-engineered products that Monsanto can't blame the public for being sceptical. D Douglas, Leeds University.

JONATHAN Glancey envisions about the new Paddington Heathrow rail link (Is this the future for British Rail? June 15); yet the return fare for the 15-minute journey is to be £20 second class, scarcely affordable for the average family and offering no incentive to the businessman to forego the car or cab. If we are serious about investing in our transport infrastructure, there is little point in doing so unless it results in seriously affordable fares. K J Rhodes, London.

IT is entirely proper that Richard Branson's knight-hood should be delayed (Branson will be a knight, hints No 10, June 15) — so many of his claims are Presumably, his citation will be for "non-service to rail passengers"? David Lewis, London.

I LIKE the new section The Editor. However, it means that there are now eight sections to Saturday's Guardian. For those of us who are really pressed for time, how about producing a ninth section, which rounds up all the juicy bits from the other eight? Dave Dettmar, Marlow, Bucks.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10

## Round one to the racists

WATCHED the England match at a bar in Sheffield frequented mainly by young professionals and university students. Until then, little would have given me greater pleasure than for England to win the World Cup. The rampant nationalism was horrible. When David Batty (deliberately) fouled a Tunisian by kicking him in the region of his eye, a huge cheer went up. There were three slow-motion replays of the foul and at each replay another cheer went up. It was not the foul in the heat of the moment I object to, although Batty is renowned as an expert fouler. It's the fact that because of this, he was cheered three times as an English hero.

What disturbs me most, however, is not so much that these young men in their early twenties engage in this kind of brutal and crude nationalism, but that it appears to be deemed acceptable behaviour, with condemnation only occurring when riots take place. But the English fans who ran rampant through Marseille are the brothers and cousins of the fans who cheered Batty's foul. Football is the embodiment of contemporary popular culture at the moment. On the basis of the last week (including the Fantasy Football hilarity following the assault on Uli Hesse) it would appear that England's popular culture is a mixture of English nationalism held together by the threads of sexism and racism.

I find myself hoping that at the end of this tournament football does go home — to somewhere where like Brazil or Italy where support for one's football team does not suspend a basic attachment to human values. Ann Tobin, Headingly, Leeds.

WHEN I went to watch the match at a pub in downtown Norwich, I expected a rowdy atmosphere, but for some reason which now escapes me, I did not expect to hear the referee described as a "bitch" and the Tunisians as "useless". For England, the World Cup is less a fair international competition and more a magnet for xenophobes and racists. Perhaps another hint from international play would, if not quell the hatred, at least not make it into another country's problem. And England deserves to host the Cup in 2006 as much as the rioters in Marseille deserve free tickets to England's remaining matches. Michael Wendling, Norwich.

THIS allegedly mindless following a fairly sophisticated political agenda. The Marseille Marauders are acting out the same political objectives as the Dublin Destroyers, who forced the abandonment of the Ireland v France friendly match a year or so ago. The thuggish behaviour has strong racist overtones, and seems to be co-ordinated to stir up trouble with our EU partners.

A match against Arab Tunisia in French Le Pen territory is a perfect setting for far-right fringe groups to leap into action. Le Pen wins, and so does the far right here. Tom White, Birmingham.

WHERE do they get it from? Had those drunken lads singing Irish anthems last week in Marseille been listening to Margaret Thatcher who, a few days previously, said: "I don't understand Cool Britannia. I believe in Rule Britannia." Thatcher did her best to close down football —

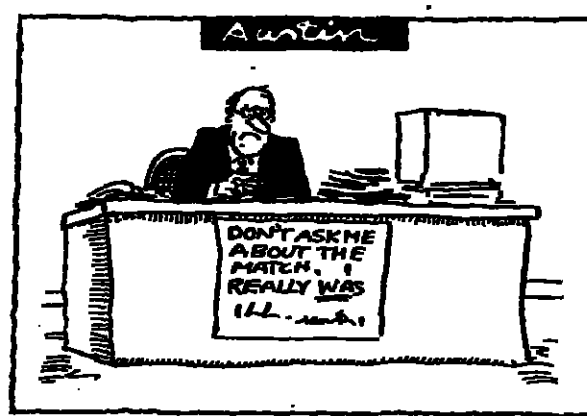
not realising that, with her jingoistic nationalism, she was always part of the problem, and not the solution. Charles Ross, Birmingham.

THE young men who deserve our understanding, if not our sympathy. All their lives they have been indoctrinated with superior nationalism, the almsgiving from British bulldog to Cool Britannia, yet at a personal level have found themselves in the company of sick and contemptible yobs, their parents brought down to comparative poverty and impotence; their grand-children, who may have fought in the last war, consigned to destitution and disregard.

Historically, young males have been the muscular and imaginative vanguard of a nation. This government, and its immediate predecessors, are simply not up to the task of tapping this ocean of energy. Piddling welfare-to-work schemes are an insult to the progeny of fighter-pilots, miners and the heroes of Alamein.

In the circumstances, the behaviour at Marseille is understandable and inevitable. Only the redemptive work of young men will remove its causes. Ian Fittatoff, London.

MIKE JOHNSON is correct about World Cup stereotypes (Letters, June 15). Most Third World countries are seen as "free-spirited", and "naïve". But during the match between Spain and Nigeria, I nearly choked on my alcohol-free cocktail as TV commentators Linaker and Ginola described the Africans as having "mental toughness" and "character". Is this a record? Paddy Daumore, London.



## After Tony and Jack wooed us...

IN THE last fortnight a government that wooed the gay vote has rejected two gay rights measures, the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill and an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill, on the grounds that they would "undermine the family". Many gay people may find this ironic, but we have particular reason to do so. We planned a book publishing 20 years ago and have had no previous trouble with the law. But on May 18, HM Customs arrived at our office with a warrant to search for "indecent items", on the strength of which they attempted to close down an internationally respected gay publisher, or are we being directly Blair-bashed? David Fernbach, Ashbury, Wiltshire.

Is Jack Straw the public school boy for this attempt to close down an internationally respected gay publisher, or are we being directly Blair-bashed? David Fernbach, Ashbury, Wiltshire.

This former fish and chip shop owner espouses views plagiarised from texts such as Mein Kampf. In fact, the themes of One Nation mirror the seeds planted by Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party in the late 1930s. A programme to limit immigration, relax gun laws, cut funding to the arts, Aborigines and other minorities, and re-introduce capital punishment will not solve the problems facing Queensland or Australia.

## How one woman poses a threat to Australia's psyche

YOUR report on the influence of Australia's One Nation party on the outcome of the Queensland state election (Deranged right-winger snaps up votes, June 13) was very distressing. Having lived in Queensland all my life and now temporarily living in London, it is disturbing to read that my countrymen have put enough support behind the shallow, xenophobic Pauline Hanson and her party for them to claim nine seats out of an 89-seat Parliament.

Indeed it sets a disturbing precedent for a book publisher to be harassed as we have now been. The Customs notoriously have wide discretionary powers, but as a Guardian article explained on June 5, their underlying remit is set by government.

Is Jack Straw the public school boy for this attempt to close down an internationally respected gay publisher, or are we being directly Blair-bashed? David Fernbach, Ashbury, Wiltshire.

The existence, and apparent strength, of this party will fan the flames of racism, anti-Semitism and hatred, will polarise views and could lead to the destruction of Australia's psyche, the building blocks of which have been multi-culturalism.

If Queensland's racist right-wingers continue to be a loud voice in the Sunshine State, perhaps it is not the place for my wife and I to rush back to. Jason Steinberg, London.

PAULINE Hanson leads a small, ill-informed and fearful minority. At last, even our less than brave prime minister is condemning her. I trust that she will soon disappear into the oblivion where she belongs. Then we can continue with building a multi-cultural Australia which is proud to have people from every country under the sun. Pat Reeves, Burton Pidsea, East Yorkshire.

## SWIFTCALL

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## First it's the clamp down, then the clam up

DEFENDING his series The Clambers (The big clamp-down, June 8), Stephen Lennart says that the critics on BBC's Late Review presumed that the people whose cars were being towed away were speaking from a script and must have been paid by us. There are four critics on Late Review. Two of us appearing that night are former TV reviewers and will

have presumed nothing of the sort. What we did discuss was the way docu-soy is spreading like fungus over the distinguished face of documentary and how it makes it ever harder for serious directors to produce work that isn't bursting with "characters" or exaggerated incident. Respected documentary-makers are being required to act like

drama producers to boost ratings and are encountering hostility from some members of the public who understandably fear they are about to be set up in the cause of entertainment. I notice that Mr Lambert did not address any of these criticisms in his article; perhaps it was easier to invent things I said instead? Allison Pearson, London.

## Start at the end to find the defining moments of those cinema classics

THE notion of criteria is missing from your list of the best films of all time (Classic films: the definitive guide, Friday Review, June 12). The criterion should be the same for films as for novels: significance. The proof lies in the closing scene. It must convey, or at least suggest, the essence of the theme, the viewpoint. The concluding scene must reveal the depths of the characters. It must reflect upon the denouement. The greatest value of art is the broadening of our minds, and that means a statement about society, per-

sonal relationships, the soul and the universe. So where are: It's a Wonderful Life (1946); Twelve Angry Men (1957); To Kill a Mockingbird (1962); The Ninth Configuration (1975); In the Heat of the Night (1967); The Big Country (1958); The Fastest Gun Alive (1956); Shenandoah (1965); Hobson's Choice (1933); The Flight of the Phoenix (1965); An Inspector Calls (1934); Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967); The Planet of the Apes (1968); Towering Inferno (1974). Since 1981 where are: Mid-

night Run (1988); Ghost (1990); Rain Man (1988); The Verdict (1982); Educating Rita (1983); Wall Street (1987); or A Few Good Men (1992)... which finishes with one of the killers expressing the true moral. For entertainment, where are Too Many Crooks (1968); Fraternally Yours (1984); Body-Snatchers (1985); Murder By Illusion (1986); Father Of The Bride (1950); Gentleman Jim (1942); or Porridge (1979)? Barrie Reader, Carshalton.

ALLOW me to start a back-lash against the choices or rather omissions in the David Meaker "definitive classic films guide". The exclusion of Werner Herzog was an unforgivable decision. May I nominate Aguirre, Wrath Of God; Strazek; The Enigma Of Kaspar Hauser as films worthy of inclusion in any listing of truly great classic films. Richard Allen, London.

ODDLY enough, the much neglected Earth Girls Are Easy again fails to show up in Jim Carrey's filmography (Carrey on... but not coming, June 15). I cannot understand how he continues to receive A-list coverage when all his films are simply much hyped B movies (apart from Batman Forever, which, although an A movie, was quite simply the worst film ever, until Batman & Robin). It would have been more interesting to see the people behind his career and to find out how they keep the wool pulled so very tightly down. J Hillier, Northolt, Middx.







Tuesday June 16 1998

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# FinanceGuardian

11

## 10,000 managers to go as British Steel 'de-layers'

David Gow  
Industrial Editor

**B**ITISH Steel is to shed up to 10,000 jobs over the next four years as it accelerates plans to become the lowest-cost and most profitable producer in the world by "de-layering" swathes of middle managers. The company, which reduced its workforce by 2,400 last year alone, with nearly all of the job losses among white-collar workers, wants to end the distinction between shop-floor and management by retraining its productive staff to operate and manage their plants.

Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel chairman, yesterday refused to quantify the scale of planned redundancies, but said it would be significant, as he unveiled pre-tax profits of £215 million for 1997-98, down from £451 million in the previous year. He said the strong pound had wiped more than £500 million off earnings.

The 30 per cent decline in earnings was actually better than City analysts predicted, and British Steel shares rose 4p to close at 138p, despite fears that the Far East crisis and a flood of cheap imports would continue to depress profits this year.

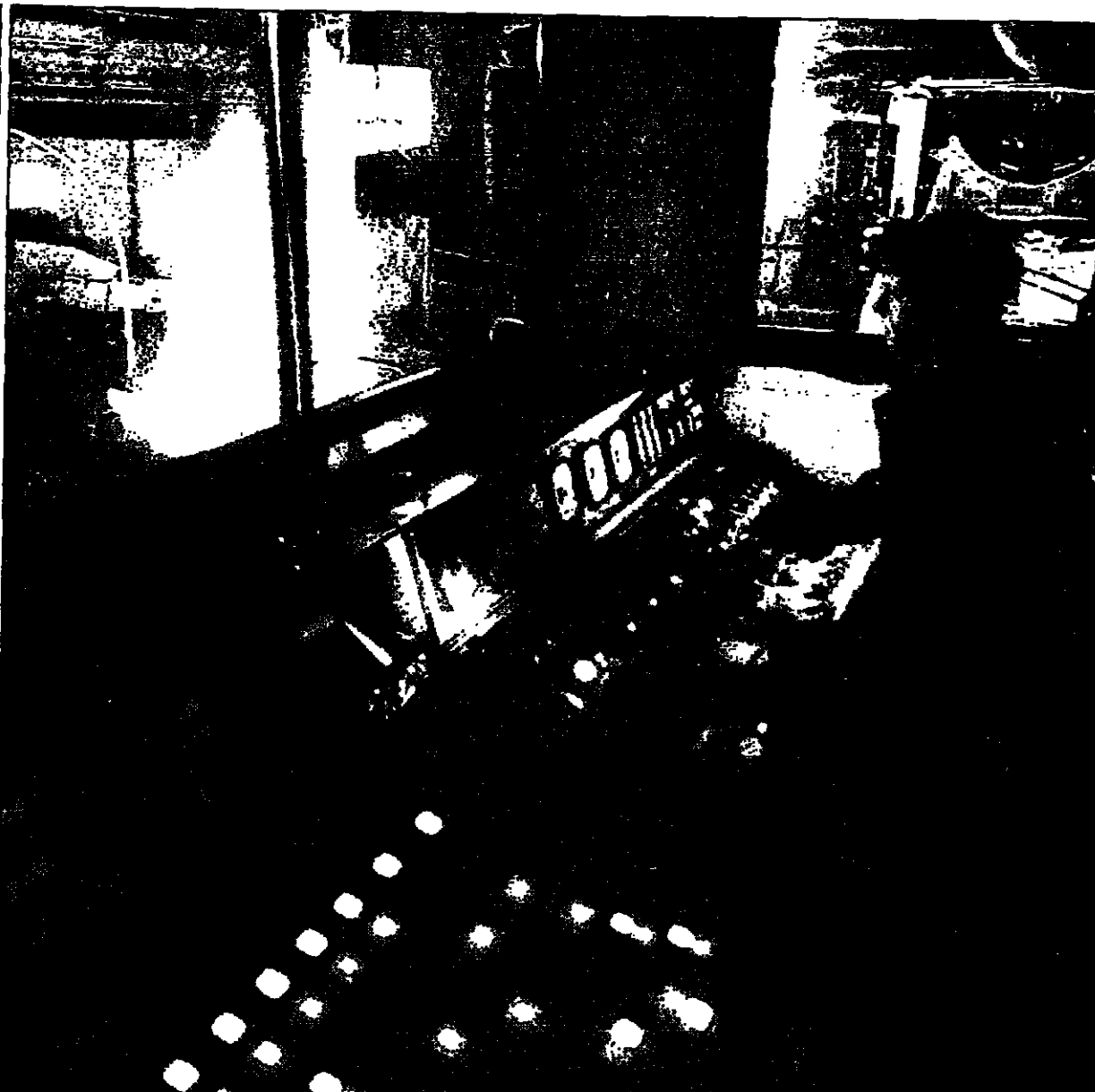
Sir Brian made it plain that, as company strategy was based on sterling remaining at its present level — 33 per cent higher than it was two years ago when British Steel made record £1.1 billion profits — the "radical manpower review" would be accelerated in the coming years.

"Our objective is to be the lowest-cost producer in the world by a bit, which is where we were three years ago before the pound took off," he said.

The aim, he added, was to achieve the kind of operation seen at the two US plants in which British Steel has an interest.

When one of these, Trico, becomes fully operational later this year it will require just 300 employees to produce two million tonnes of steel a year. Though Sir Brian said that the American plants were not comparable with the UK operations, they provided a benchmark in terms of the "management interface" wanted at the British sites.

"We are looking for a far more direct system in which the various levels of middle management are significantly eroded and we have a multi-skilled workforce," he said. The shop-floor operators, working in a team, would for the first time decide on such issues as safety and efficiency at their plants.



Managing without bosses... Computer-controlled operation has seen productivity at British Steel's modernised plants rise from 14 man hours per tonne two decades ago to 2.4 man hours per tonne

Under its drive to harmonise working conditions for blue- and white-collar workers, British Steel has already persuaded its managers to work a 36.5 hour basic week, 90 minutes longer than before, for higher pay. The company is offering its productive staff much higher pay to learn new skills and responsibilities.

Keith Brookman, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the main union, said that employees were prepared to go along with the company's plans "to become the prime player in Europe, where there's 20 million tonnes of excess capacity, in terms of productivity".

He said: "Underpinning the union position is that we don't accept any hard redundancies and we expect the

chairman to honour his side of the bargain that there will be no major closures."

Sir Brian said only a "few bits and pieces here and there" might go. The British Steel chairman said it was unlikely that the group would invest in the Far East in the short term, but it was still looking for acquisitions there and saw Europe and North America as presenting profitable prospects.

The company, he added, was actively looking at Poland and Romania. He ruled out taking equity in west European businesses such as Cockerill, the Belgian steel producer now being courted by other European groups interested in taking on some of the 79 per cent stake owned by the regional Walloon government.

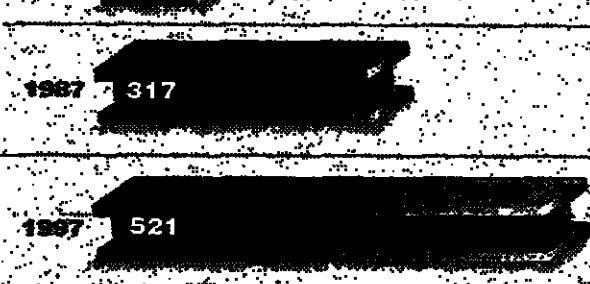
Robert Rubin last week appeared to rule out co-ordinated efforts to prop it up by the world's major economies.

"It's almost as if the United States is pushing Japan to the brink of collapse to force policy makers there into a more positive response," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at Japanese bank DKB.

The yen's slide unleashed ferocious pressures on the other Asian markets which compete with Japanese goods for export markets. The plummeting yen could trigger a devaluation of the Chinese yuan, with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of Asia.

### Soaring steel

UK steel production, per employee, tonnes, 1977-1997



"Cockerill might have interested us, but not on the terms being offered, and that's to guarantee jobs ad infinitum," he said. "Our business is about profits and shareholder value. If it's jobs before shareholder interests the answer is 'no'... it simply prolongs the agony."

### Biting the bullet

**W**HEN the late Ian MacGregor became chairman of British Steel 18 years ago, he had a dream: of being able to go into a modernised plant, shoot straight with a rifle and see the bullet exit the other end of the mill without hitting a single person, writes David Gow.

Today, in plants like Llanwern, south Wales — where the bulk of production staff work in air-conditioned offices behind computer screens — his dream is almost a reality, but, thanks to the vagaries of international currency markets and steel prices, there will be even fewer targets to hit in years to come.

British Steel's UK workforce fell from 166,400 on the eve of a 13-week strike in 1980 — before Mr MacGregor took over the then state-owned concern — to 54,400 ten years later. It now stands at 39,100. But output, at around 15 million tonnes a year, is only marginally lower than it was two decades ago as the number of man-hours required per tonne has fallen from more than 14 to about three.

The improvement in productivity may have been constant but the rise and fall of the pound ensured that profits have been on a roller-coaster ride. On taking over in 1980, Mr MacGregor inherited record losses of £1.5 billion, but in 1989, by then in private hands, British Steel earned £733 million.

Four years later, with Britain gripped by recession, the pre-tax losses were £21 million, but a further three years on, buoyed by low-inflation growth at home and a competitive edge to sterling, the company could boast of being the lowest-cost producer in the world — a post record profits of £1.1 billion. That is the position Sir Brian Moffat, British Steel's current chairman, wants to regain with the accelerated radical manpower review he disclosed yesterday in an accompanying of repeated warnings about the uncertain trading environment now and in the years ahead. He was certain of one thing: the British workforce producing the hoped-for earnings will be even slimmer than Sir Ian envisaged in his wildest dreams.

### Notebook

## Goldman greed goes before a fall



Edited by  
Lisa Buckingham

**T**HERE was an awful inevitability that Goldman Sachs, the mighty Wall Street partnership, would decide to follow the herd and convert itself into a limited company.

The issue has cropped up six or seven times before in the more-or-less illustrious 130 years since the bank's foundation, but never before had the impetus towards conversion seemed so strong.

At a time when even mediocre executives in the investment banking world can pull in seven figure sums each year there were quite legitimate concerns that the lower orders would defect if they were not showered with the riches enjoyed by their peers.

By dividing the spoils as widely as possible Goldman should be able to ensure it keeps people it most prizes. On a rather more humble scale, a wealth and decision-making trickle-down could resemble the model of our own John Lewis partnership.

It is totally unconvincing, however, to argue that raising about \$5 billion (£3 billion) by selling 10 to 15 per cent of the business will make one iota's difference to the strategy Goldmans is likely to follow. The investment bank is already a leader in mergers & acquisitions work, underwriting and share dealing. It is also an increasing powerhouse in asset management and will look even stronger if the rumours are true that Merrill Lynch and its new acquisition, Mercury Asset Management, are not getting along so well.

If Goldman will not risk becoming a takeover target by floating a majority of its shares, it will raise too little to give it more than a puny punch in today's world of financial services acquisitions.

Some people should conclude only two things: that greed — and on an heroic scale — has become such a factor among the Goldman partners that their concern to preserve the hugely successful partnership ethos of the bank has been completely overridden, and that, as world markets continued to tremble yesterday, it won't be long before we remember the day the Goldman partners called the top of the market as the day we should have sold out.

over our lives. In fact, Asda is merely extending its established operation, which already sells 24 million pizzas, five million curries and 780,000 hot chickens a year.

The restaurant trial, to be opened at Canterbury next month, will add a few extras and allow consumers to eat before, after or instead of shopping.

But the fact that this development is incremental demonstrates how far the supermarket offer already stretches. It explains how 40,000 square feet of selling space is barely enough to fit everything in these days, although supermarkets half that size looked over-ambitious as recently as the mid-1980s.

Now Asda, no doubt soon to be followed by Tesco and the others, wants to sell us the baked beans in a can, beans in curry sauce in a takeaway box ready for the microwave, and the same thing on a plate in the restaurant. It is a new interpretation of "ready meals", ready without the bother of taking them home to be warmed up.

The advantage to the supermarkets is higher margins. But there could be a downside — the further the grocers get away from grocery, the more volatile their business becomes.

Eating out is a good-times pastime. In harder times we still have to pay food, but we don't have to pay other people to cook it.

### ABI confession

**A**GLOSSY *nostra culpa* plucked on to the desks of MPs yesterday from the Association of British Insurers. It is an attempt to paint the background to the pensions mis-selling disaster, to apportion blame and to update the people's representatives on what is being done to compensate those who have been wronged.

It comes at a time when the industry's compensation programme is moving from phase one (helping out the priority cases) to phase two (the less immediate cases, which may number two million).

It is clear that the ABI, which has always been quite a powerful lobbying force, is stepping up a gear in terms of its lobbying to senior politicians.

Little wonder. Insurers have decided that traditional insurance is about to become only a very small part of their business.

What they are really about is savings, and that means they will increasingly come head-to-head with banks, building societies and stock market vehicles as rivals for the nation's disposable pound.

Look only at the enormous potential offered by the transfer from the National Health Service to the private sector of care for old people (long term care, insurance) or from the state to the private sector for retirement living allowances (the stakeholder pensions) or for a proportion of the putative Individual Savings Accounts. Who says FR isn't worth the candle?

### Food court

**T**HE news that Asda is planning to open drive-through restaurants illustrates how far the supermarket chains have come from stacking baked beans high and selling them cheap. And it raises the question of how much more powerful they can get without taking

## Yen slide sends shares tumbling

Charlotte Duxbury

**S**HARES prices plummeted around the world yesterday amid fears that the recession in Japan could drag the rest of the world into an economic slump.

The yen was also hit, sliding to an eight-year low against the dollar in the wake of Friday's news that Japanese output contracted in 1997 — the first year it fell since the second world war.

Shares in London were hit by Asian nerves with the FTSE-100 index losing more than 120 points at one stage before recovering to end the day at 5720, nearly 80 points down.

On Wall Street, the benchmark US index was down 117 points in afternoon trading, triggering curbs designed to check market instability.

European leaders meeting in Cardiff for the last summit of the British presidency warned that the Japanese economic crisis could infect otherwise healthy economies in Europe and the United States.

"The world economy is facing the biggest risk since the Latin America debt crisis," said a spokesman for the Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The yen reached its lowest level since August 1990. Analysts said the Japanese currency was heading towards 150 after US Treasury secretary

Robert Rubin last week appeared to rule out co-ordinated efforts to prop it up by the world's major economies.

"It's almost as if the United States is pushing Japan to the brink of collapse to force policy makers there into a more positive response," said Gerard Lyons, chief economist at Japanese bank DKB.

The yen's slide unleashed ferocious pressures on the other Asian markets which compete with Japanese goods for export markets. The plummeting yen could trigger a devaluation of the Chinese yuan, with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of Asia.

Japan is the root cause of everything that is going on in

the world economy at the moment," said Mr Lyons.

The French prime minister hinted yesterday that further falls in the yen could prompt the G7 countries to reconsider last week's decision not to intervene to prop up the currency.

"We need to rapidly weigh up the risks of the Japanese situation and collectively consider how to respond," said French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Figures out yesterday indicated the continuing weakness of the Japanese economy. The Japanese lower house yesterday approved a mini-budget to fund the first stage of a package of tax cuts.

## Springer abandons Mirror bid

Simon Beavis  
Media Business Editor

**M**ORE than £111 million was wiped off the value of the Mirror Group yesterday after German publisher Axel Springer Verlag abandoned plans to bid for the group after deliberating for three weeks.

Springer — publisher of the rightwing German paper Bild — announced its decision after a board meeting yesterday. Shares in the Mirror Group immediately fell 11 per cent to 208.5p and the City predicts that they could go below 200p if no alternative bidder came forward.

But some analysts believe the group could soon be the subject of a rival offer. Leading contenders include a private buyer and the newspaper group Trinity, which had already discussed a merger with the Mirror.

The reclusive Barclay Brothers — owners of The European and Sunday Business — have also been rumoured as possible bidders.

The consensus in the City last night was that the Mirror now desperately needs a deal of some sort. Axel's retreat came in a terse three-line statement saying it had "completed an extensive review of all issues and will not be making an offer for the Mirror Group".

expressing delight that the Germans had left the field and claiming it was good news for shareholders as it would allow the company to continue to deliver enhanced value.

Chief executive David Montgomery said of the Springer approach: "This always looked like an attempt to take control of Mirror Group on the cheap."

The market had been looking for a bid in the 275p-a-share range, although the Mirror board had not disguised its ambitions to achieve 300p. Both seem to have been way outside the range of Axel Springer.

One of the Mirror's top priorities is to get a new chairman in place quickly. Victor Blank, the chairman of Charterhouse Bank and a buyout specialist, is still seen as the most likely candidate. But the three-week siege of the Mirror by Springer has left the group in something of a limbo and investors made it clear yesterday they are looking for a clear explanation of where the group goes next.

In the meantime, its top management team has also been weakened by the unrelated, though badly timed, resignation last week of Kelvin MacKenzie as deputy chief executive. He is trying to put together a bid for Talk Radio with the help of Rupert Murdoch's News International.

## Butler calls for society degrees

Liz Stuart

**F**ORMER butler Michael Hardern has launched his latest campaign to float the Nationwide building society on the stock market with a call to turn every customer into a member of the House of Lords.

Mr Hardern, the driving force behind the push for Nationwide to become a bank, said in the voting papers sent out to Nationwide members over the past four days: "Every member of the public should want to be a customer of Nationwide plc and I want to see every customer a member of the House of Lords."

He calls for the creation of "a Nationwide Net University which could deliver degrees for £100" and calls for the Q-level giveaway, even though the qualification no longer exists. He is also demanding the society's staff should receive windfalls worth up to £20,000 each, assuring them of job security.

Bob Goodall, co-ordinator of the Save our Building Societies campaign, yesterday called Mr Hardern a "social vandal". He said: "We are fortunate that we have a chap like him leading the flotation bid as he is lacking in any credibility."

The official comment from the Nationwide is muted, pointing out that he lost the vote for change last year.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.717	Germany 2.686	Malaysia 0.56	Singapore 2.80
Austria 20.21	Greece 488.16	Malta 0.626	South Africa 8.58
Belgium 59.27	Hong Kong 12.25	Netherlands 3.221	Spain 242.21
Canada 2.322	India 66.51	New Zealand 3.21	Sweden 12.86
Cyprus 0.544	Ireland 1.13	Norway 12.21	Netherlands 2.882
Denmark 11.00	Israel 6.07	Portugal 251.67	Turkey 410.880
Finland 8.818	Italy 2.639	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.882
France 6.818			

Supplied by Reuters (including rupee, shekel and malawi)











France 98

# Ugly duckling swans on to the world stage

**Richard Williams finds England shoe a perfect fit for Scholes**

ALTHOUGH it would be unwise to exaggerate the quality and significance of England's victory over Tunisia yesterday, the performance of Paul Scholes represented an important advance for Glenn Hoddle's side. Winning only his seventh cap, the 23-year-old Manchester United player made exactly the kind of contribution to the team's strategy — in effect if not in style — that might have been expected from Paul Gascoigne in his prime. Lying closer to the front pair than Gascoigne would have done,

## Match stats

	Eng	Tun
Possession	53%	47%
Attempts on target	7	3
Attempts off target	2	8
Corners	3	3
Fouls	12	25
Offsides	0	1
Bookings	1	3

Scholes produced a classic, old-fashioned inside-forward's performance, full of creativity, continuity and generosity, and with a sharp eye for a scoring chance.

This is just what England need. Historically prone to a kind of mental stiffness at international level, when a reliance on athleticism is never enough, English players require an animating force, someone with the natural gift of creating a sense of movement — and, these days, of collective movement at unpredictable angles, such as the best teams achieve.

With Ince and Batty winning the ball, Anderton and Le Saux maintaining the team's attacking width, and Shearer and Sheringham keeping the centre of Tunisia's defence occupied, Scholes was able to provide the dynamism that engendered and maintained a sense of unpredictability.

Whenever they field a team lacking the qualities of a Johnny Haynes, a young Alan Ball or a fit Gascoigne, England's traditional weaknesses become embarrassingly obvious. Given a display such as that of Scholes yesterday, players like Shearer and Ince grow an extra couple of inches in stature. And if they

can benefit, then the more mundane performers can seem transformed. Against admittedly modest opposition, England yesterday had no real weak links. And we should not forget that modest opposition have occasionally brought out the worst in them.

In terms of publicity, Scholes has suffered in recent months from the comparative eclipse of his team's younger generation, overshadowed by Arsenal's progress towards the Double. Suffered, too, from the attention — thoroughly justified, it must be said — paid to Michael Owen.

On the other hand, Scholes may have benefited from being allowed to pursue his international career in relative peace and quiet, just as he has in the domestic game under Alex Ferguson's tutelage at Old Trafford, where the more charismatic figures of Ryan Giggs and David Beckham attract the paparazzi.

There has always been a sense that Ferguson cherished Scholes' talent above all the many fostered by his regime — partly, one suspects, because he is a bit of an ugly duckling. Short-legged, sandy-haired, with a round face and anonymous features, he wouldn't stand out in a bus queue. You certainly can't imagine him being snapped on holiday wearing a skirt, with a pop star on his arm.

Scholes becomes a schoolboy's pin-up solely by virtue of his deeds. In his manager's eyes, too, he is prized for his craftsmanship. Football is written all the way through Scholes, and its less glamorous tasks come as easily to him as its moments of glory. Either he is a genuinely modest man, or a good actor.

It took him 18 minutes to catch the eye yesterday. When Sol Campbell broke through two Tunisian tackles on the left, Scholes was making ground inside him. A flicked pass refused to match his stride pattern, so he turned through 360 degrees and manufactured a shot that ricocheted away for a corner.

Ten minutes later Ince dispossessed Skander Souayah in midfield, exchanged passes with Sheringham and found



Finishing touch... Paul Scholes caps a performance of great creativity by curling home England's second goal to make victory safe at Stade Vélodrome

PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS KINRAID

Le Saux wide on the left. When the wing-back's cross came over, there was Scholes, rising in the six-yard box and heading powerfully down, but unable to get enough of an angle on the ball to beat Chokri El Ouaer.

Soon afterwards Ince fed Shearer, who delivered a lovely ball to Sheringham. A measured cross from the right was met at the near post by Scholes with a stabbed shot that bounced up and forced El Ouaer to push it past the post.

A few minutes into the second half we saw a glimpse of the gift that, of England's current squad, only Scholes possesses. Intercepting the ball in midfield, he carried it away from Kales Ghodhbane, beat Sirageldine Chihl and Ehab Badra as he moved into the Tunisian penalty area and fell victim only to a well-judged final tackle by the sweeper Mounir Boukaddia.

In a word, Scholes can dribble with the ball and beat people as he does it, in the old-fashioned style. He keeps the ball close, as Gascoigne did, but is not so dependent on his bulk and his elbows to keep opponents at bay.

As a means of changing the direction and pace of play, and of committing opponents and taking them out of the game, this is a valuable and underrated art. No team would want too many dribblers, but every team should have at least one. As Scholes showed in the 80th minute, when he accelerated past

Ghodhbane to be halted by a foul which earned the Tunisian a yellow card, it can have a thoroughly demoralising effect.

But Scholes needed none of his dribbling skills two minutes from time, when he scored the goal that sealed England's victory. The touch of flamboyance came from Ince, whose contribution to the game had been typically robust and whose lack of pace — compared, at any rate, to his days at Old Trafford —

had not been exposed by the Tunisians. Ince it was who beat Imed Ben Younes and Chihl in succession before playing a delicious backheel across the area to Scholes.

Ince's initiative deserved the proper response, and Scholes found it. Evading Tarek Thabet's challenge, he moved across the area before hitting a right-foot shot that curled in a beautiful arc past El Ouaer's left hand and inside the far post. Never mind Gascoigne, for once. This was

a shot that a Gerson or a Platini would have been proud to add to a video of greatest hits. Perhaps Matthew Le Tissier could have matched its lethal grace, but would he have equalled the rest of Scholes' contribution? Whether or not it prefaces greater things for England, this was a moment to adorn any World Cup, completing an individual display that will have been noted in the dossiers of the world's best coaches.

## Born-again Anderton wins Hoddle's hosannas

GLENN HODDLE may not be prone to hyperbole, but the England coach went close to overkill in acclaiming England's victory, saying, "We could have taken them to the cleaners."

"After taking such a long time to get into the tournament, it was great to get off with a win," he said. "After we'd settled down after the first 15 minutes, certain individuals had tremendous games."

"This was a tricky game for us. I felt this was the worst time to play Tunisia with the heat and the fact that this was very much their World Cup final. But I was delighted with the way we performed. One swallow does not make a summer but today we were confident and sure of what we were trying to do."

Having opted for Darren Anderton in the right-wing back role instead of David Beckham, Hoddle was quick to extol the virtues of a Tottenham man. "He worked absolutely tremendously down that right flank. He uses the ball well, and he's going to get stronger and stronger."

Hoddle reserved special praise, though, for Paul Scholes, the man who filled

**Shearer v Sheringham**

How England's captain performed in the match against Tunisia

Match	Goals	Assists	Minutes
England v Tunisia	1	1	90
England v Colombia	0	0	90
England v Romania	0	0	90
England v Yugoslavia	0	0	90
England v Czech Republic	0	0	90
England v Croatia	0	0	90
England v Netherlands	0	0	90
England v Belgium	0	0	90
England v Russia	0	0	90
England v Slovakia	0	0	90
England v Hungary	0	0	90
England v Slovenia	0	0	90
England v Latvia	0	0	90
England v Lithuania	0	0	90
England v Iceland	0	0	90
England v Germany	0	0	90
England v France	0	0	90

Paul Gascoigne's creative midfield role with conspicuous success. "He played a superb role just off the front two. He got into the box, timed his runs

well, used the ball well, and can beat people. There were a lot of good things and Scholes was behind them."

Scholes made few bones about feeling under pressure. "I felt I had to produce and maybe make or score a goal like I did. It was a great ball from Paul Ince. I was going to play the ball back to him but I miss-controlled it a bit so I just turned and hit it."

Alan Shearer revealed that the free-kick from which he scored England's opener had been well rehearsed. "We have worked on one or two set-pieces over the last few weeks and it is always nice when one comes that way," he said. "It was a tremendous ball from Graeme Le Saux."

"It's been a good result," he added, "but let's not get carried away."

Group G: Romania 1 Colombia 0

## Cobra strikes down Colombians

Michael Walker in Lyon

### Match stats

	Rom	Col
Possession	51%	49%
Attempts on target	6	4
Attempts off target	10	7
Corners	6	1
Fouls	21	24
Offsides	5	2
Bookings	3	1

ANYONE who thought England had been given an unfavourable group when the draw for the World Cup finals was made in December will have been relieved by events yesterday afternoon.

With Tunisia safely dispatched in Marseille, Glenn Hoddle's spies here, Dave Sexton and Peter Taylor, will no doubt be reporting to the boss that England have practically nothing to fear from Colombia, bar falling asleep on the job, and Romania can hardly have struck fear in the camp with a performance high on efficiency but low on imagination.

Romania, however, will get better. Once they had secured the victory through Adrian Ilie's racy scouped shot seconds before half-time, they entered through the rest of the match.

That they were able to do so says much about Colombia, and it is little wonder that Faustino Asprilla admitted last week that there was less pressure on his team than four years ago because of reduced expectations back home. Asprilla, substituted near the end, and walking straight past his colleagues and manager Hernan Dario Gomez to the tunnel, justified that sentiment on his own. The rest were not far behind.



Asprilla... off in a huff

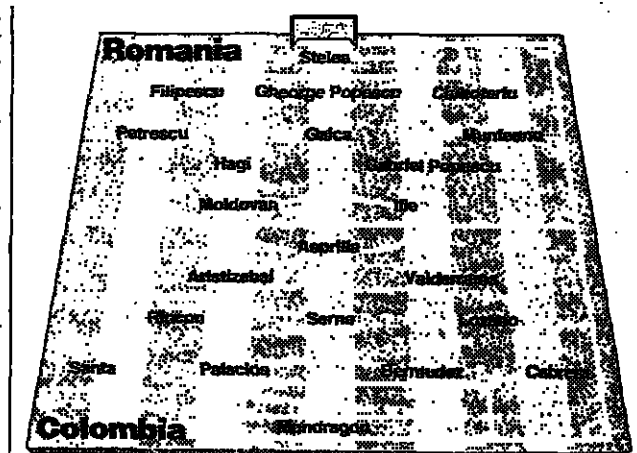
treacherous, the second a large picture of Andres Escobar draped in front of a section of Colombian fans.

Beside the picture a national flag had "Colombia: Peace" written on it and the Colombians began as if they were trying to live up to that statement — lacklustre makes them sound energetic. It took them more than half an hour to worry the Romania back three even slightly, then the mere presence of George Popescu was almost enough to cause Gheorghe Popescu to put through his own goal.

Encouragement should have been taken, and yet that incident apart, Colombia produced no further threat until 10 minutes into the second half when Jose Santa, in space in the Romania penalty area, chose to cross rather than shoot.

The problem was a straightforward one when viewed from the stand: Colombia lacked width and pace, and Asprilla had nothing other than the odd surge forward by Carlos Valderrama to call support. Gomez did try to rectify that in the second half, bringing on Adolfo "The Train" Valencia, but too often he began on the wrong platform.

Belatedly Bogdan Stelae in the Romania goal was forced into the occasional punch and block but that was because those ahead of him had slackened off.



Freddy Rincon offered brief resistance for the Colombians but the ease of the win can be judged by the contribution of Gheorghe Hagi. The great man stroled about, as he does, for 99 per cent of the 77 minutes he was on the field but when the goal came he was inevitably involved.

His flick towards Ilie hit a Colombian leg on the way but it was still Ilie's to collect. Maurizio Serna was

then expertly bypassed before the man nicknamed The Cobra flicked an improvised shot over Farid Mondragon into the far corner. Ilie might just be the snake in the grass for England next week.

SUBSTITUTIONS Romania: Stelae for Gabriel Popescu, Gheorghe Hagi for Hagi, 77; Nicolae for Moldovan, 85. Colombia: Valderrama for Aristizabal, 65. PRECIOUS for Asprilla, 85. SCORERS Romania: Filipescu, Munteanu, Popescu. SANTA. REFEREE: L. K. Chong (Mauritius).

## Team talk

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	0930	16	86	+	World Cup
Arsenal	60	Fulham	57	Flamengo	67
Aston Villa	61	Hudd. Town	74	Reading	59
Barnsley	62	Ipswich Town	75	Sheffield United	58
Birm. City	63	Leeds United	76	Sheffield Wed.	59
Blackburn	64	Leicester City	77	Southampton	60
Bolton	65	Liverpool	78	Spurs	61
Brentford	66	Man. City	79	Stoke City	62
Burnley	67	Man. United	80	Sunderland	63
Celtic	68	Middeleborough	81	Watford	64
Chelsea	69	Millwall	82	West Ham	65
Coventry City	70	Newcastle Utd	83	Wimbledon	66
Crystal Palace	71	Norwich City	84	Wolves	67
Derby County	72	Notm. Forest	85		
Everton	73	QPR	86		

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

## 'We were too timid'

THE Colombian coach Hernan Gomez criticised his team for being "very timid" during their 1-0 defeat by Romania yesterday.

"There was no spontaneity and a lot of the players were nervous," said Gomez. "In the second half we fought and we had plenty of goalscoring chances. We didn't get the right result but Romania didn't deserve it either. I must emphasise that our players still have the capacity to do well. We are unified."

"In the first period we lacked cohesion and clarity. After the break we were much more determined but unfortunately we missed all our scoring opportunities. Now we have to find our cohesion and make sure we win next time."

Meanwhile, in the Romanian camp, their captain was celebrating. "The important thing is that we won," said Gheorghe Hagi. "Nothing else matters."

"We showed that when we

need to be we are just as good in defence as in attack," added the veteran playmaker. "This is going to be my last World Cup and I want to leave a good impression."

The delighted Romanian coach, Anghel Iordanescu said: "I'm very pleased with how we played. This victory has a great psychological importance for us, because this was the opening game and also because we fielded several young, less experienced players."

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